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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	92025859
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the matter of Trademark Registration No. 1147309

For the mark COHIBA	· ·		
Date registered: February	y 17, 1981		
AND			
In the matter of the Trade For the mark COHIBA Date registered: June 6, 1	C		
EMPRESA CUBANA		2.5	
CUBATABACO,		:	
	Petitioner,	:	Cancellation No. 92025859
	v.	:	
GENERAL CIGAR CO.	, INC.	:	
	Responden	t. :	
		:	
		X	

Oral Cross-Examination, Re-Direct and Re-Cross Examination and Second Re-Direct of Alan Willner, dated December 13, 2019

^{*} At Respondent's request and solely in order to facilitate the orderly presentation of testimony in this proceeding, Petitioner has agreed to file this transcript even though Respondent noticed this oral examination.

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1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT PATENT AND TRADEMARK
	OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK AND APPEAL BOARD
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	EMPRESA CUBANA DEL TABACO, d/b/a
4	CUBATABACO,
5	Petitioner,
6	vs.
7	GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC., AND
	CULBRO CORP.,
8	
	Respondent.
9	/
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11	
	TESTIMONY OF
12	ALAN WILLNER
	FOR THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
13	
14	
15	Friday, December 13, 2019
	9:43 a.m 2:39 p.m.
16	
17	BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER
	401 East Las Olas Boulevard
18	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	Stenographically Reported By:
24	Kimberly Fontalvo, RPR, CLR
25	Realtime Systems Administrator

		Page 2
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THE COURT REPORTER: Please raise your right hand.

Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DEUTSCH:

Q. Mr. Willner, my name is Andrew Deutsch. I am an attorney for General Cigar Company in a proceeding which has been brought by Empresa Cubana Del Tabaco, which is generally known as Cubatabaco or Cubatabaco (pronounced differently). I'll use one of those two pronunciations if it comes up.

Today is a trial deposition in a Trademark
Trial and Appeals Board proceeding, so it is
equivalent to going into court at trial and
testifying. I want to make sure you understand
that.

This testimony will be presented by one or both parties to the board that makes a decision in this proceeding, so it's important to get a clear record.

If you have any difficulty in understanding any of my questions, please let me

know before you answer. I will try to rephrase them.

Obviously, if I show you any document, please read it or at least read the points that I'm asking you to read.

You know, you are, as I understand it, a nonparty witness today and not represented by counsel, so there may be discussion or colloquy between myself and Mr. Frank, that is for the eyes of the board and not for you in particular, and there will be, eventually, a resolution of any objections that either side raises to questions or anything else that goes on in the trial deposition. So that's not really an issue for you.

And with that, I'll ask if you have any questions about the procedure before we start.

- A. I don't think so.
- Q. Okay. So did you do anything to prepare for your trial deposition today?
 - A. I read the declaration.
- Q. And by "declaration," you mean the declaration that you provided in this case.
- A. I read the declaration that was prepared by Lindsey's law firm.
 - Q. And Lindsey is Mr. Frank, who is sitting

	Page 6
1	here.
2	A. Correct.
3	Q. And he is the attorney for Cubatabaco.
4	A. Correct.
5	MR. DEUTSCH: All right. Let's mark I
6	think it's Respondent's 38.
7	(Thereupon, marked as Respondent's
8	Exhibit 38.)
9	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
10	Q. Mr. Willner, we've put in front of you
11	what's been marked as Respondent's Number 38.
12	Can you tell me what this is?
13	A. This is the declaration that I just
14	referred to.
15	Q. Okay. And can you then take a look at the
16	last page of Exhibit 38. That's page 19.
17	Is that your signature on page 19?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. And did you sign this on October 4, 2018,
20	in Parkland, Florida?
21	A. I don't recall
22	Q. Okay.
23	A but yeah.
24	Q. Do you have any reason to believe that's
25	inaccurate as to the date?

noticed last night that -- here, I'll pull them up.

There were a couple of small things that I

Α.

24

Anything else?

Q.

Okay.

your attorney for any purpose?

I spoke to Mr. Frank through some previous

Α.

1	emails over the last month or so to coordinate this
2	meeting probably the last couple of months,
3	actually and then we met yesterday.
4	Q. Okay. So were those prior communications
5	about the date of your deposition?

- A. Yes, date and time.
- Q. Okay. Well, tell me what happened between you and Mr. Frank yesterday.
 - A. We simply reviewed the declaration.
 - Q. Did you look at any other documents?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Besides your family, have you discussed the litigation between Cubatabaco and General Cigar with anyone else -- and Mr. Frank -- have you discussed it with anyone else since you left General Cigar?
 - A. No.
- Q. Okay. Have you received any compensation of any nature connected to your providing the declaration that's been marked as Respondent's 38?
- A. For my loss of time. I'm supposed to be in the Bahamas right now.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. I was paid compensation.
 - Q. What compensation?

communications regarding your declaration before you

signed it?

	rage 15
1	A. No.
2	Q. So you let me see if I understand it.
3	Did you prepare your declaration?
4	A. No.
5	Q. Who prepared it?
6	A. Mr. Frank's law firm.
7	Q. Did you have any communications with
8	Mr. Frank's law firm prior to the time that they
9	prepared your declaration?
10	A. No, sir.
11	Q. How did you know that there was going to
12	be a declaration prepared for you?
13	A. I didn't.
14	Q. How did it come that you learned that a
15	declaration had been prepared for you?
16	A. Through email.
17	Q. And when was that email?
18	A. I don't recall the exact date.
19	Q. Okay. The date on this declaration being
20	October 4, 2018, do you know how long prior to that
21	date you were first contacted by Mr. Frank's law
22	firm about giving declaration?
23	A. I don't remember.
24	Q. Do you remember if it was months?

I honestly don't remember.

A.

1	Q. You have no idea whatsoever of the time?
2	A. None.
3	Q. Okay. How were you contacted?
4	A. I believe it was email.
5	Q. Okay. Did you solicit this or was it sent
6	to you without your knowing it was coming?
7	A. I did not solicit it.
8	Q. Okay. And do you remember who at the
9	Mr. Frank's law firm sent that to you?
10	A. I don't know for sure. I suspect it was
11	Mr. Frank, but I don't know for sure.
12	Q. And what do you recall about the what
13	was said in that communication from Mr. Frank or his
14	law firm?
15	A. I don't remember exactly.
16	Q. What do you remember what is the
17	extent of your recollection?
18	A. That I received the declaration. I was
19	told to review it
20	Q. Uh-huh.
21	A and if there were any inconsistencies
22	or things that I did not believe were accurate, to
23	let him know.
24	Q. So the first communication you got was, in
25	fact, a draft of a declaration from Mr. Frank or his

1
1

- A. I don't recall if it was -- I assume it was a draft, since I was being asked for feedback on any changes.
- Q. Do you recall whether you were asked before you ever received a draft whether you would consent to providing a declaration in this proceeding?
 - A. I don't recall.
- Q. So as far as your recollection goes, your first communication may have been that they actually sent you a draft of a declaration, correct?
- A. That's my recollection, although it doesn't seem reasonable. It would seem that I would have been given notice that a declaration was on its way. I just don't recall that.
- Q. Wouldn't it have been reasonable for you to be asked whether you were willing to give a declaration?
- A. I think it would be, and I don't recall if I was asked that.
- Q. Can you recall any occasion on which you told General Cigar before -- I'm sorry, where you told Mr. Frank or his law firm before you received the draft of a declaration you would be willing to

	1490 10
1	provide a declaration to support Cubatabaco's case?
2	A. I don't recall doing that.
3	Q. Okay. So to the best of your
4	recollection, it just came to you out of the blue.
5	A. My recollection is I got an email with a
6	declaration attached, and I was asked to read it.
7	Q. And is your recollection, as well, that
8	you didn't anticipate that you were going to get
9	that email until you received it?
10	A. Like I said, I don't recall getting
11	notice, although it seems a little bit odd that I
12	wouldn't have. I do not recall.
13	Q. Okay. Did you respond that you were
14	willing to provide a declaration at any point or did
15	you just start to work on the draft that was given
16	you?
17	A. I don't recall being asked if I wanted to
18	submit a declaration.
19	Q. So there were emails exchanged between you
20	and Mr. Frank or his firm regarding this declaration
21	before you signed it?
22	A. That's correct.
23	Q. Do you remember how many emails?
24	A. I received a declaration. I'm sure that I

responded upon receipt. I don't recall exactly.

1	More than likely, I responded on receipt.	And there
2	may have been one other communication.	

- Q. Do you recall reviewing and correcting the draft that was tendered to you by Mr. Frank's law firm?
- A. Vaguely. I don't recall -- vaguely, I remember maybe making a change or two. And that would have been the second communication.
- Q. What would the first communication have been?
 - A. Maybe just acknowledging receipt.
- Q. Okay. So in order of sequence, you received -- is it correct that you received a draft declaration from Mr. Frank's firm.

Your first response was to say: "I've received your declaration"; is that correct?

- A. (Nodding head).
- Q. Is that right? You have to say "yes" or "no."
- A. Sorry. That's normally what I would do.

 I don't recall specifically, but that's what I would
 propose I probably did.
 - Q. That would be normal practice?
 - A. That would be normal practice.
 - Q. Okay. And then is it correct that your

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1	second communication with Mr. Frank was to send him
2	changes you wanted to see in the draft of your
3	declaration?
4	A. That seems logical.
5	Q. Is that what happened?
6	A. I don't recall exactly.
7	Q. Okay. And was this all taking place in
8	2018?
9	A. Given that this declaration is dated
10	October of '18, this took place in 2018.
11	Q. Okay. And can you remember approximately
12	how many months prior to the date of your signature
13	here, October 4, 2018?
14	A. I don't.
15	Q. Do you remember approximately how long the
16	whole process from the first email from Mr. Frank's
17	firm to the day you signed your declaration took?
18	Was it weeks? Months? Anything can you give me
19	any idea at all?
20	A. I can certainly look at my email and give
21	you a precise idea.
22	Q. Okay. But as you sit here today, can you
23	give me an idea?
24	A. I can't.

And is it your testimony that you

Q.

Okay.

	Page 19
1	made one set of corrections, and only one set of
2	corrections, to the draft you were given?
3	A. To the best of my recollection, that's
4	what I recall doing. And, again, I could check
5	emails and know precisely how many.
6	Q. Okay. But, again, as you sit here today
7	without the emails, that's all you remember.
8	A. Correct.
9	Q. Okay. Do you recall the changes that you
10	made to the draft that initially was given to you by
11	Mr. Frank?
12	A. I don't.
13	Q. Okay. Do you recall whether you made a
14	lot of changes or only a few changes?
15	A. I suspect I only made a few changes.

Q. In the process of making -- withdrawn.

In the process of reviewing the draft and deciding whether to make changes, did you consult any documents, or did you simply work from your own memory?

A. What's in my document is true and I know it, so I didn't have to refer back to any other documents.

And the context or content of the document, of the declaration, didn't really suggest

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1	that I needed to go look at documents.
2	Q. Okay. So the answer is: You didn't look
3	at any other documents
4	A. Correct.
5	Q is that correct?
6	A. Correct.
7	Q. Thank you.
8	And once you provided well, withdraw
9	that.
10	Once you signed the declaration, did you
11	have any communications with Mr. Frank about the
12	declaration up until yesterday when you met with
13	him?
14	A. I don't recall, but I don't I just
15	don't recall having a conversation, no, after I
16	signed it.
17	Q. Okay. And you don't is it correct that
18	you don't recall having any communication with any
19	lawyer representing Cubatabaco from the date you
20	signed your declaration until yesterday when you met
21	with Mr. Frank, other than to set a date for your

That's correct.

I'm sorry. I still have to finish the

Α.

Q.

question.

22

23

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	1490 21
1	Q. No.
2	Other than when you set a date for your
3	examination.
4	Let me put it to you again.
5	Is it correct that outside of withdraw
6	that, too.
7	Is it correct that between the date you
8	signed and provided your declaration to Mr. Frank
9	and yesterday, you didn't have any other
10	communications with lawyers for Cubatabaco other
11	than to set the date for your deposition?
12	A. Correct.
13	Q. Okay.
14	MR. DEUTSCH: Okay. I'm going to mark as
15	39, Respondent's 39, this document.
16	(Thereupon, marked as Respondent's
17	Exhibit 39.)
18	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
19	Q. Okay. You have been given Respondent's
20	39. Please review it and when you have when you
21	have finished, let me know that you have finished.
22	A. So it's my LinkedIn profile.
23	Q. This is your LinkedIn profile?
24	A. Correct.

Did you write this?

Q.

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1	0
1	1
1	2
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2	0
2	1
2	2
2	3
2	4

- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And we printed this out yesterday, I think, or the day before.

Is that, to your knowledge, your most current version of your LinkedIn profile?

- A. I believe so.
- Q. Okay. Now, in your declaration, starting on paragraph 53 and going through paragraph 63, you list all the jobs that you held from 19- -- I gather it's now the end of 1982 until you became vice president of marketing for General Cigar; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. But you don't list any jobs that you have held since you left General Cigar; is that also correct?
 - A. No.
- Q. Is that wrong or is that -- I'm asking about your declaration at the moment.
 - A. Correct. The declaration, correct.
 - O. That's all I wanted to know.

Now, this identifies your job after -your only job after leaving General Cigar as chief
executive officer of Pirate Republican -- Pirate
Republic Brewing Company, correct?

1	A. Correct.
2	MR. FRANK: Objection. You're referring
3	to Exhibit
4	MR. DEUTSCH: Yeah. Let me rephrase it.
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	Q. Exhibit 39, your LinkedIn profile,
7	identifies your only job after leaving General Cigar
8	as being chief executive officer of Pirate Republic
9	Brewing Company; is that right?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Okay. And is that your only employment
12	that you have had since you left General Cigar?
13	A. I did a consulting stint with a company
14	out of California for a month.
15	Q. Okay. And what was the company?
16	A. It was called Copalli Rum.
17	Q. Can you spell that, please.
18	A. C-O-P-A-L-I.
19	Q. And would it be accurate to say they were
20	in the rum business?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Okay. So you haven't done is it
23	correct to say you haven't done any work for any
24	cigar company since you left General Cigar?

I have not done any work for a cigar

A.

	Page 24
1	company since I left General Cigar.
2	Q. Okay. And is it correct to say you
3	haven't consulted for any cigar business since you
4	left General Cigar?
5	A. Correct.
6	Q. Okay. And what is the current business of
7	Pirate Republic Brewing Company?
8	A. Pirate Republic is a craft brewer located
9	in the Bahamas.
10	Q. Okay. And is it accurate to say they're
11	not in the cigar business?
12	A. It is.
13	Q. And they're not in any tobacco business?
14	A. Correct.
15	Q. Okay. Would it be accurate to say that
16	your current job does not call for you to remain up
17	to date as to developments in the cigar business?
18	A. That's correct.
19	Q. And that you haven't had any employment
20	need to remain current as to cigar developments
21	since you left General Cigar, correct?
22	A. Correct.
23	Q. And you ceased working there in
24	November 2016; is that correct?

A.

Correct.

1	Q. Okay. All right. I'm going to ask you
2	some questions about your prior employment.
3	And we'll start with paragraph 63 of your
4	declaration, which is Exhibit 37.
5	Now are you with me?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Okay. So this talks about your work at
8	Hershey Foods Company, and I gather from earlier you
9	are correcting what appears in the declaration.
10	You worked from for Hershey from the
11	end of 1982 through 1987; is that correct?
12	A. Correct.
13	Q. And was Hershey in the cigar business?
14	A. No.
15	Q. Was Hershey involved in any tobacco
16	businesses then?
17	A. No.
18	Q. Then in 62 paragraph 62 of your
19	declaration, you say you worked for PepsiCo from
20	1987 to 1988; is that correct?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. And was PepsiCo in the cigar business?
23	A. No.
24	Q. Was PepsiCo in any tobacco business at all
25	at that time?

		rage 20
1	Α.	No.
2	Q.	Okay. And paragraph 61 says that you
3	worked in	is that Brach's?
4	Α.	Brach's.
5	Q.	Brach's Candy Company from 1988 to 1992.
6		And was Brach's in the cigar business at
7	that time?	?
8	Α.	No.
9	Q.	Were they in the tobacco business?
10	Α.	No.
11	Q.	Okay. And would it be correct that in
12	your Linke	edIn pages, you do not indicate your work
13	at Hershey	y's, PepsiCo, or Brach's?
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	Okay. By the way, you also don't give the
16	date when	you received your bachelor in science in
17	marketing	from Arizona State in your LinkedIn,
18	correct?	
19	A.	Correct.
20	Q.	So back to the declaration, paragraph 60.
21		Paragraph 60 says that you worked for
22	Nabisco be	etween 1992 and 1996, correct?
23	А.	Correct.
24	Q.	And at that time, was Nabisco in the cigar
25	business?	

from approximately 2000 to 2001, correct?

So paragraph 57 says you worked at Diageo

Α.

Q.

Yes.

23

24

1	A. Correct.
2	Q. And how much time exactly did you work
3	there? Was it two years? A year and a half?
4	A. I worked there about a year and a half.
5	Q. Year and a half.
6	And did Diageo at that point, were they
7	in the cigar business?
8	A. No.
9	Q. Were they in the tobacco business?
10	A. No.
11	Q. Okay. And how did you come to cease being
12	employed by Diageo?
13	A. We merged with Seagram's, there were all
14	kinds of changes occurring, and I had another
15	opportunity that I felt was better for me.
16	Q. Were you offered the opportunity to
17	continue with the merged Diageo/Seagram's
18	organization?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. So this says in paragraph 56 that your
21	next position was vice president of marketing for
22	Pabst Brewing Company from approximately 2001 to
23	2005; is that correct?
21	A Correct

Was Pabst Brewing Company in the cigar

Q.

	rage 30
1	business at that time?
2	A. No.
3	Q. Were they in the tobacco business at that
4	time?
5	A. No.
6	Q. Okay. And how did it come that you left
7	Pabst Brewing Company to join a startup company
8	called Cafe Bom Dia, B-O-M D-I-A?
9	A. Correct. We were trying to sell Pabst. I
10	was living in Fort Lauderdale. Our office was in
11	San Antonio. I commuted the entire time.
12	And as it turns out, we didn't sell the
13	company. I didn't want to commute anymore, so I
14	resigned from the company.
15	Q. Did you at the time when you resigned,
16	did you have this position set up at Cafe Bom Dia?
17	A. No.
18	Q. How long did you have to look to find that
19	position?
20	A. Two months maybe.
21	Q. And you were at Cafe Bom Dia, according to
22	paragraph 55, for approximately the year of 2005; is
23	that correct?
24	A. Correct.
25	O. And what was the business of Cafe Bom Dia?

1	A. Cafe Bom Dia was a coffee company located
2	in Brazil.
3	Q. And were you working on the
4	consumer-facing side of that business?
5	A. I was. I was in charge of sales and
6	marketing. We were trying to take Brazilian coffee
7	and sell it to major retailers in the United States.
8	Q. This says that you held that position for
9	approximately a year in 2005, correct?
10	A. Correct.
11	Q. And would it be correct to say that Cafe
12	Bom Dia was neither involved in the cigar or tobacco
13	business?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. And what were the circumstances under
16	which you left Cafe Bom Dia?
17	A. The company had a nice business with Sam's
18	Club and Walmart. The business was lost to a
19	competitor and the company had to, basically, close
20	doors.
21	Q. So you left the company at the same time
22	that everyone else did?
23	A. No. I left first. I was the highest-paid
24	person in the company other than the founders.
25	Subsequently, the rest of the people I worked with

And what were the circumstances under

0.

	
1	which you departed from Kronos Foods?
2	A. Well, I took the job to become the next
3	CEO of that company. It was in Chicago, which is my
4	home town, which was very attractive.
5	I got into the business and I didn't enjoy
6	the business, and I had to make a tough decision
7	about what I wanted what I enjoyed and what I
8	want to do and what this opportunity was. And they
9	weren't in alignment.
10	Q. Were you ever offered the position of CEO
11	at that company?
12	A. I wasn't there long enough.
13	Q. Okay. But you were dissatisfied with the
14	work and decided to look elsewhere?
15	A. Correct.
16	Q. Okay. And it says you next became
17	president and chief executive officer at Starr Hill
18	Brewing from 2007 to 2011; is that correct?
19	A. Correct.
20	Q. And what was the business of that company?
21	A. That was a craft brewery.
22	Q. Where were they located?
23	A. Just outside of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Okay. And did they have any involvement

Q.

in the cigar business?

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Α. No.

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tobacco business?

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Q. Okay. And so your job immediately after working at Starr Hill was as vice president of marketing at General Cigar.

Did they have any involvement in the

- Correct.
- And how did you come to leave Starr Hill and move to General Cigar?
- I left -- I grew Starr Hill from a hobby to a business and a significant brewery.

We were partners with Anheuser-Busch. Anheuser-Busch had a change of ownership. At that change of ownership, I had a recruiter who I'm friendly with that called me about General Cigar. He encouraged me to meet with the president of General Cigar during my trips to Virginia, which I did, and we ended up doing a deal together and I left the beer business to go to the cigar business.

- Ο. And that president was Dan Carr --
- Α. Correct.
- -- at that time? Ο.
- Α. Correct.
- 0. And so this was your first job ever in the

	Page 35		
1	cigar business.		
2	A. Yes, it was.		
3	Q. And your first job ever in the tobacco		
4	business.		
5	A. Yes, it was.		
6	Q. Okay. And you worked from November		
7	sorry, August 2011 and November 2016 with		
8	General Cigar, correct?		
9	A. That sounds right.		
10	Q. And that is the only work you have ever		
11	done with a cigar company, correct?		
12	A. Yes.		
13	Q. And you worked for General Cigar for about		
L 4	five years and two months; is that correct?		
15	A. Yes.		
16	Q. Okay. So based on your declaration,		
17	before you worked at General Cigar, you worked for		
18	ten different companies; is that correct?		
19	A. If that's what it was, yes.		
20	Q. So well, you've listed all of your		
21	employment in your declaration, correct, up to the		
22	time		
23	A. Yes.		
) <i>A</i>	O of Conomal Circum		

A.

Yes.

- Q. Okay. So would it be accurate to say that you have worked approximately 33 years since you started at Hershey? Is that right?
 - A. I've worked about 37.
- Q. About 37 years. Sorry. My addition is wrong.

And your work in the cigar business, out of those total 37 years, is the 5 years and 2 months you worked at General Cigar, correct?

- A. Correct.
- Q. All right. I'm going to ask you some questions about your declaration.

And I'll ask you to turn to page 6 -- I'm sorry, paragraph 6 of your declaration, which is Respondent's 37.

Would you please read it, and then let me know when you have finished reading it and I will ask you questions about it.

- A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. Now, you say you visited the, quote, marketplace, end quote, approximately half a dozen times a year; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And was that a consistent half a dozen times a year across the five years and two months

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1	you	worked	for	General	Cigar?
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- A. I don't really recall. Some years I may have been a few more; other years, I may have been one or two less. But I think that, on average, every other month I would take a trip.
- Q. Okay. Were these routine trips or were they the same sort of trips every year to the same places, or how did that work?
- A. Well, they were trips to go to the marketplace to understand how our brands were doing with certain customers or in certain markets.

So depending upon what our focus was and what intelligence we needed to gather, I would go to a specific market.

- Q. And did you go by yourself on these trips or were you accompanied by others in General Cigar?
- A. Sometimes by myself, sometimes with others.
- Q. Okay. And how did you select the places to visit?
- A. As I said, it depended on what our priorities were by brand. We managed a large portfolio of brands. I may have wanted to go into a market to see how a certain brand was doing, how a new item was doing.

There may have been -- there may have been situations where I wanted to understand the opportunity in a marketplace --

O. Uh-huh.

A. -- because we wanted to do something with one of our brands in that marketplace.

And the third reason would have been there was an opportunity to go evaluate our people in that marketplace and kind of report back the things I saw and the opportunities.

- Q. Okay. Now, as vice president of marketing, you had responsibility for a portfolio of cigars, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Of which the General Cigar Cohiba was only one cigar, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. How many cigars, approximately, did you have responsibility for, different brands of cigars, in the position as vice president of marketing?
- A. I don't recall exactly, but we had a large portfolio. We focused on approximately ten major brands, and then we had a tail of brands that extended probably another 25. So total, we had roughly 30, 35 brands that we had responsibility to

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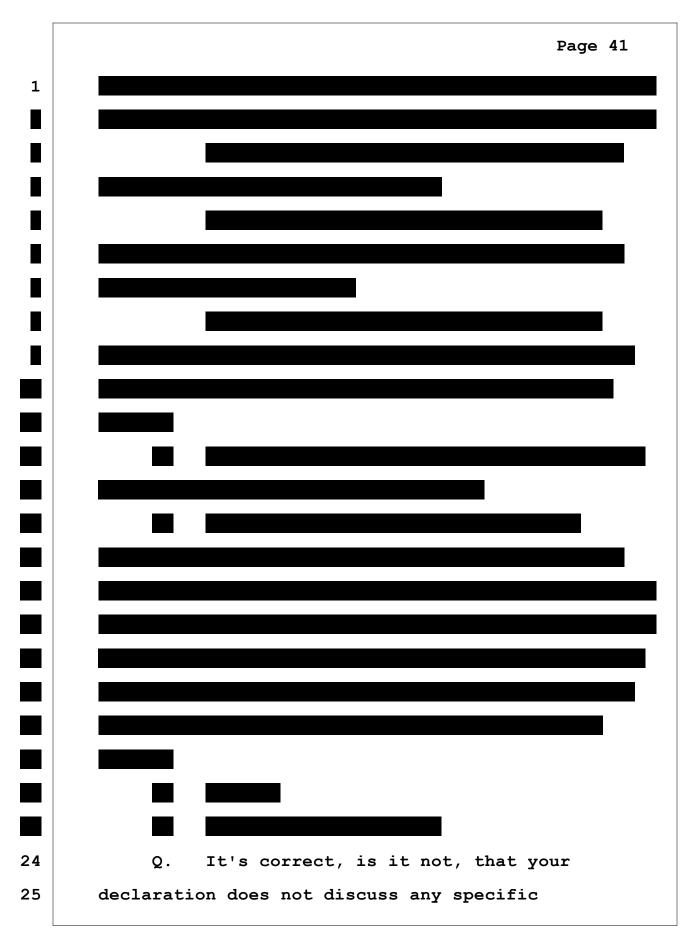
- Q. Okay. And the Cohiba was one of those ten major brands?
 - A. Cohiba was one.
- Q. Okay. Just to understand, when you talk about a market visit to brick-and-mortar cigar retailers, that means you were going to visit physical stores, correct, stores that, you know, had a door and a --
 - A. Correct.
- Q. -- street entrance and all that sort of thing.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And did your visiting a single physical brick-and-mortar cigar store count, in your calculation here, as a single visit to the marketplace?
 - A. No.
- Q. All right. How many stores did you visit in the course of a year, how many actual individual stores?
- A. An average day in the marketplace would be calling on six to eight stores. You know, an average trip would be two or three days.
 - Q. So you might see 25 stores in the course

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of that time?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. How about in visiting cigar distributors? Did you tend to visit multiple distributors in the course of a trip out of the office or was that technically just one visit?
- A. That would -- if it was a distributor, it would more than likely be one visit, because there's a major distributor in the major markets that I would probably visit.
- Q. How about Internet catalog companies? If it was a -- would you typically visit just one in a visit?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And if I were to ask you today can you recall any of the specific brick-and-mortar cigar retailers you visited in a year, would you be able to tell me that?
 - A. Who they are?
 - Q. Yes.
 - A. I could probably recall a handful.
 - Q. Tell me the handful you recall?

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1	conversations with cigar merchants regarding
2	consumer reaction to the Cohiba cigar, correct?
3	MR. FRANK: Objection. Vague.
4	A. Can you please repeat that?
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	Q. Okay. If you take a look at paragraph 6,
7	as far as I can tell, that's the only paragraph in
8	which you discuss your interactions with cigar
9	retailers.
10	And so I'm asking you: Nowhere in this
11	paragraph do you tell about cigar retailers
12	informing you of consumer confusion as to the
13	origins of the General Cigar Cohiba, correct?
14	(Discussion off the record.)
15	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
16	Q. I'm asking you: Nowhere in this paragraph
17	do you say that cigar retailers informed you of
18	consumer confusion regarding the origins of the
19	General Cigar Cohiba; is that correct?
20	A. So a clarifying question I need to ask
21	you.
22	You are referring to the merchant that
23	worked for the cigar shop?
24	Q. I'm talking about people in I'm talking

about not consumers in the cigar shop --

	y			
1	A. Nonconsumer?			
2	Q but the people who either owned or			
3	worked for the guy who owned it.			
4	A. Okay.			
5	Q. You don't say anywhere here that any of			
6	those people told you that they had encountered			
7	customers who were confused about the Cohiba; is			
8	that correct?			
9	A. I don't recall having those conversations.			
10	Q. Okay. And you visited about 25 cigar			
11	shops a year, correct?			
12	A. No.			
13	Q. I'm sorry. You said you visited six			
14	I'm sorry, that's not correct you visited six to			
15	eight stores a year, correct?			
16	A. No.			
17	Q. All right. Let's try to go back again.			
18	In the course of one visit to you had			
19	approximately half a dozen visits to the			
20	marketplace.			
21	A. Correct.			
22	Q. On each of those visits, you would visit			
23	six to eight			
24	A. No.			

-- cigar stores.

Q.

	Page 44
1	A. No.
2	Q. Let me try to get let me get this
3	straight. You don't have to help me.
4	In the course of a year, how many cigar
5	stores would you visit for purposes of your work?
6	A. In the course of a year, I would take
7	approximately six trips.
8	Q. Right.
9	A. Each trip would be it varied two to
10	three days, on average.
11	Q. Right.
12	A. An average day, I would make six to eight
13	calls on cigar stores.
14	Q. So let's try to be conservative. You
15	would make six trips, they would be two to three
16	days, and you would visit six to eight cigar stores.
17	A. Uh-huh.
18	Q. So at a minimum, you would let me see
19	if I have this correct you would visit about 60
20	cigar stores in the course of a year?
21	A. Six trips, two days, say, if you want to
22	be conservative, times twelve.
23	Q. Yeah.
24	A. So 12 times 6, 72.

Q.

Okay.

72.

1	And you did this each year during the five
2	and a half years?
3	A. Some were more, some were less, but I went
4	in the market each year.
5	Q. Right. But these are your approximations

- Q. Right. But these are your approximations as best you could recall at the time you did your declaration, and they're still your recollection, right?
 - A. That's what I recall.
- Q. So conservatively speaking, you went to 200 or more cigar stores in the course of your work as vice president of marketing, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And you don't recall any instance in which a cigar store owner or cigar store employee said to you, in substance, "Hey, I've got consumers who are confused as to where your General Cigar Cohiba is coming from."
 - A. To the best of my recollection, yes.
- Q. Okay. Now, you also say in paragraph 6 that you also attended evening cigar events involving consumers.

Some of these events were dedicated to or included General Cigar's Cohiba cigars, correct?

A. Correct.

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1	Q. Okay. What are these evening cigar
2	events? What are they like?
3	A. Well, some of them were promotions that
4	experiential promotions that General Cigar would
5	have with various tobacco shops around the country.
6	Q. Uh-huh.
7	A. Others would be larger events. For
8	example, Cigar Aficionado puts on a Big Smoke event
9	in locations across the country each year. So they
10	would vary between those two types of events.
11	Q. Okay. Approximately how many evening
12	cigar events did you attend in the course of a given
13	year?
14	A. About half a dozen.
15	Q. So you attended somewhere in the range of
16	30 of these while you were at General Cigar?
17	A. On the high side.
18	Q. Maybe 25?
19	A. 25 to 30, I would say.
20	Q. Okay. 20 to 30 evening cigar events.
21	When you went to these things, were you
22	generally identified by a name tag or something as
23	being a General Cigar executive?
24	A. Perhaps at the Big Smokes, I just don't
25	recall, but not in the smaller ones.

recall, but not in the smaller ones.

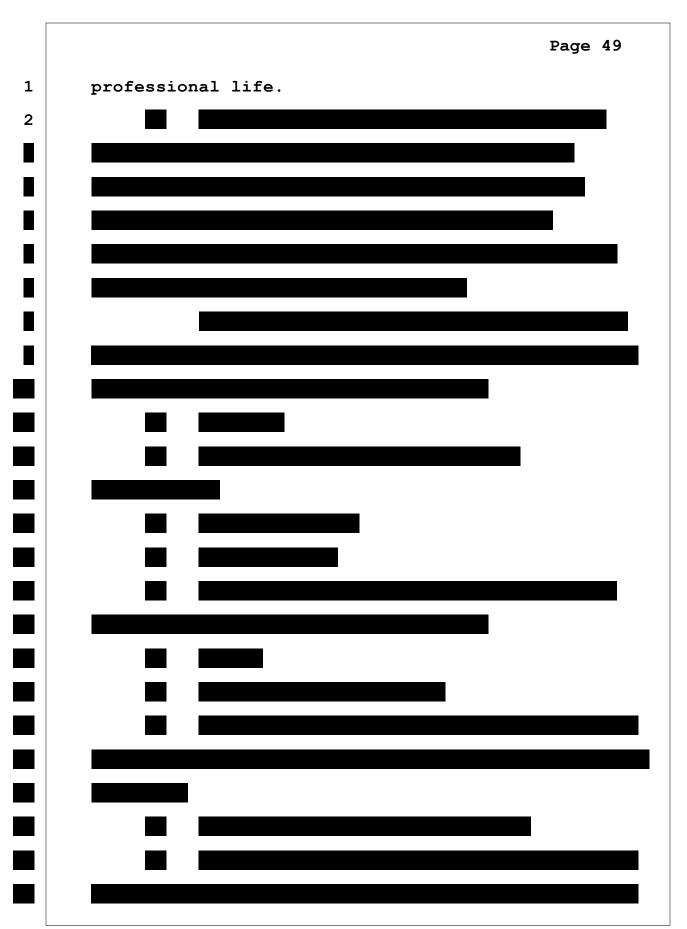
1	Q. Okay. Did you tend were there events
2	where you were at a General Cigar booth or stand or
3	table?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. Okay. How common was that?
6	A. Big Smoke. Less common than the smaller
7	events that we did by brand.
8	Q. Uh-huh.
9	And when you say you did events by brand,
10	that would mean, for example, that if you were
11	promoting Partagas, there would be a Partagas event?
12	A. We rolled out normally, after the big
13	convention each year, we would introduce new cigars
14	to the marketplace. And it would be common that we
15	would go out in the marketplace and do events with
16	our tobacconists to get consumers to try the new
17	cigars.
18	Q. Okay. Of the events the 20 to 30
	_
19	evening events you told me about, how many of them
20	were specifically dedicated to the Cohiba cigar?
21	A. A small amount.
22	Q. Right. When you say "small," what do you
23	mean?
24	A. I can recall one.

Q.

One.

Okay.

1	Can you recall any other events that were
2	dedicated to a specific General Cigar cigar?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. And what were those?
5	A. I recall an event with Punch. I recall an
6	event with Macanudo Inspirado.
7	Q. Okay. So if you take a look now at
8	paragraph 8 of your declaration.
9	MR. DEUTSCH: Actually take a look.
10	I'm just going to get some water.
11	(Discussion off the record.)
12	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
13	Q. Okay. Have you had a chance to read
14	paragraph 8 of your declaration?
15	A. I have.
16	Q. Okay. Now, you say that during your work
17	at General Cigar over the course of five and a half
18	years, "I interacted with many premium cigar
19	consumers in the United States each year."
20	Beyond these evening events that you've
21	talked about, what other circumstances would you
22	interact with premium cigar consumers?
23	A. In trade visits
24	Q. Uh-huh.
25	A and just in my day-to-day social and



- Q. Can you think of any reason why someone who didn't know you were working with General Cigar would discuss the Cohiba with you?
- A. I can't think of a specific example, but I said that because I -- you know, I have friends and -- professional and social friends, and --
 - O. Sure.
 - A. -- it's come up in conversation.
- Q. Well, excluding people who you knew, friends, social friends, acquaintances, as you said here --
 - A. Okay.
- Q. -- did everyone who asked you about -- withdrawn.

Excluding friends and acquaintances, did everyone with whom you had a conversation regarding the Cohiba who was a consumer, to your knowledge, know you worked for General Cigar?

A. No. I mean, I can think of one example.

It was a holiday Christmas party back in -- right around the time I joined General Cigar, so that must have been 2011.

I was sitting in -- watching the Fort

Lauderdale boat parade at somebody's house on the Intracoastal and I brought a box of Cohibas over --

Q. Uh-huh.

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- A. -- a white box. And somebody that didn't know I worked for General Cigar -- they may have known I was in the cigar business, I don't recall -- asked me where the Cohiba was from.
 - Q. And what did you tell them?
 - A. I told them it was a Dominican Cohiba.
 - Q. Okay. Did you have further conversations?
 - A. Not really. They appreciated the cigars.
 - Q. Sure.

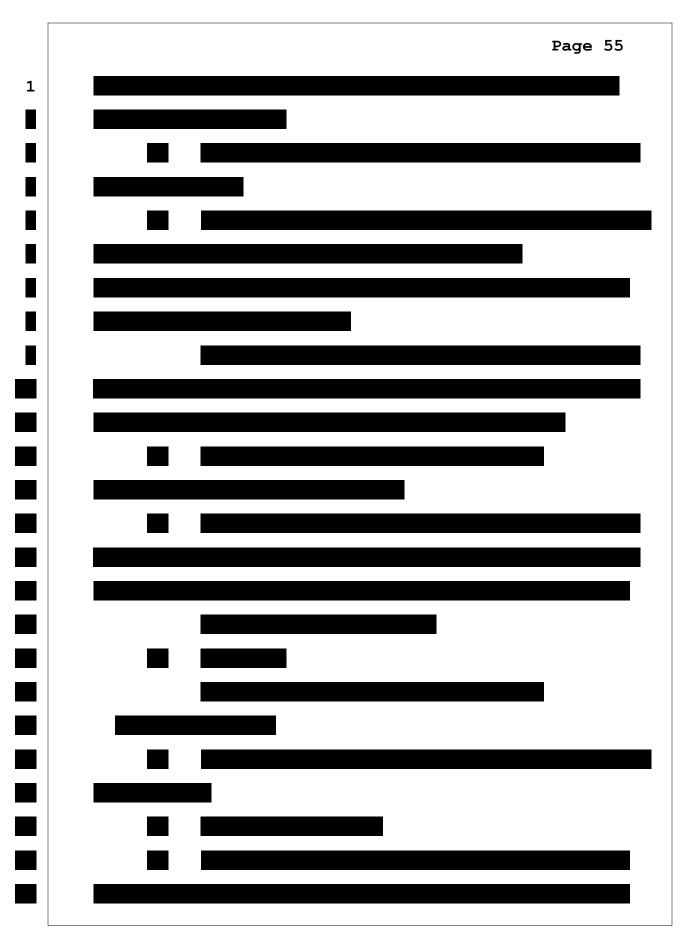
And in this paragraph, you don't identify any occasion in which friends and acquaintances brought up the Cohiba cigar, but you say, in fact, there were occasions when that occurred other than the one you just mentioned?

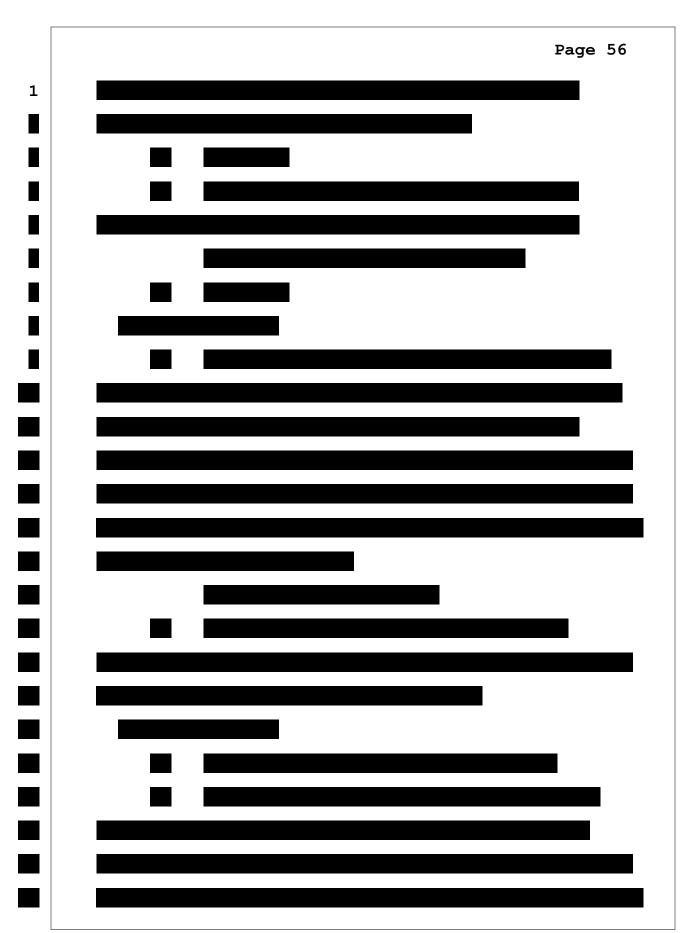
- A. Are you asking me were there other occasions?
- Q. I'm asking were there occasions where you discussed the Cohiba with friends and acquaintances, other than the one you just mentioned a few minutes ago.
 - A. I'm sure.
 - Q. Can you recall any?

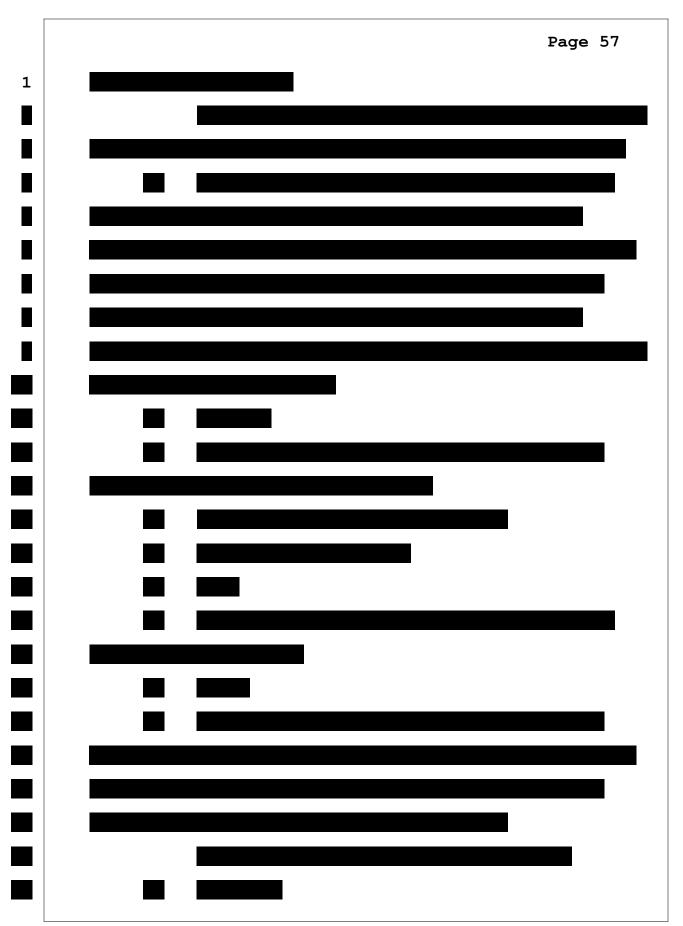
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- A. No.
- Q. Can you recall any of them in which your friends and acquaintances expressed confusion as to the origin of the General Cigar Cohiba?
 - A. I can't think of one.
- Q. Okay. Can you look at paragraph 9 of your declaration, please.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. Now, is it correct that your declaration states that -- and these are your words -- a very small number of consumers with whom you spoke expressed confusion between the General Cigar and Cuban Cohiba cigars, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And "very small," that's your own words, correct? That's the word you used here?
- A. I didn't write this, so I can't -- I don't know.
 - Q. But you signed the declaration.
 - A. True, yes.
 - Q. So it's true that it was a very small --
 - A. It was a very small number.
- Q. Okay. And it's accurate that you can't recall the specific date of any single one of these small number of consumer interactions, correct?

1	A. I cannot recall a specific date.
2	Q. Can you recall the location where any of
3	these interactions occurred?
4	A. There's two situations which I believe I
5	presented previously that I do recall. One was at
6	Club Macanudo and one was at a Big Smoke.
7	Q. Let me ask you about the Big Smoke, and
8	I'll go on to Club Macanudo in a second.
9	What happened at the Big Smoke?
10	A. The Big Smoke I can't recall if it was
11	New York or Las Vegas we were giving away
12	Cohibas, and the consumer asked if they were from
13	Cuba.
14	Q. Okay. Did you know if that consumer was a
15	regular smoker of premium cigars?
16	A. I don't.
17	Q. Did you have any conversation other
18	than
19	A. None.
20	Q. I have to finish.
21	A. I'm sorry.
22	Q. Did you have any conversation with that
23	consumer other than answering that question?
24	A. No. Because Big Smoke is it's like
25	Halloween for adults. People are coming through







1	Q. And this is what you please answer the
2	question I'm asking you.
3	This is the declaration you signed,
4	correct?
5	A. Correct.
6	Q. And I'm asking you now: Is it the case
7	that you can only recall one instance in which a
8	consumer told you that they were surprised to learn
9	that the General Cigar's Cohiba cigar they had
10	smoked was not the Cuban Cohiba cigar?
11	A. Correct.
12	Q. Okay. And this is the only exchange in
13	which you give any substance of a conversation
14	between you and a consumer that indicated that the
15	consumer was confused
16	MR. FRANK: Objection.
17	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
18	Q is that correct?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. Do you ever remember a premium cigar
21	consumer telling you that they were not aware that
22	there was a U.S. embargo on sales of Cuban cigars in
23	the U.S.?
24	A. I can't think of a specific situation.

Would it be fair to say that among premium

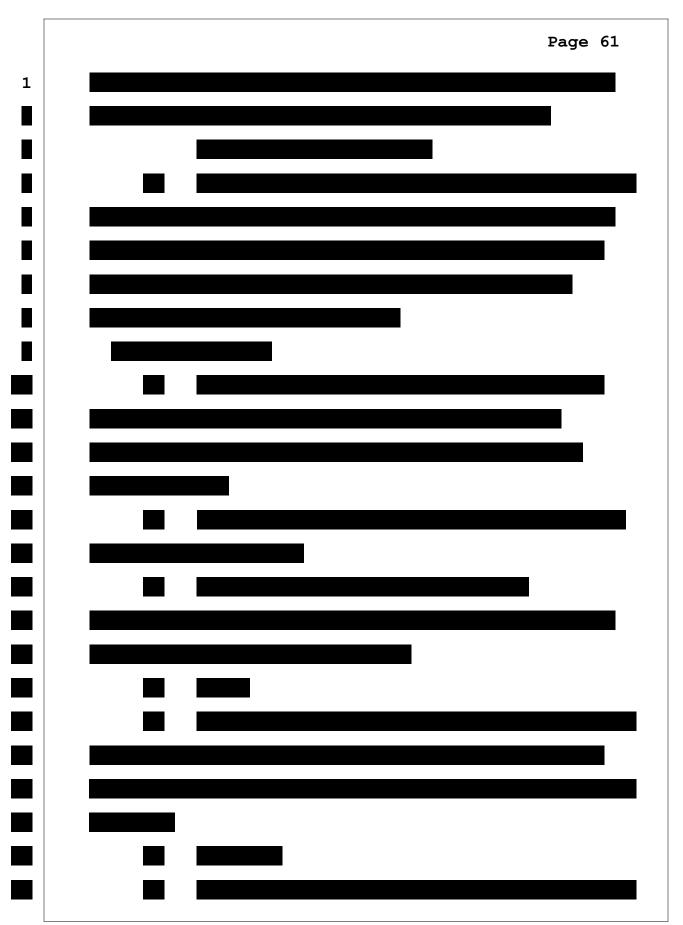
Q.

1	cigar smokers, consumers, it was generally known
2	that there was an embargo on selling Cuban cigars in
3	the U.S.?
4	MR. FRANK: Objection. Speculation.
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	Q. Based upon your experience at
7	General Cigar.
8	A. It depends on to the extent that they're
9	involved with premium cigars.
10	Q. Well, the question I'll ask you the
11	question differently.
12	Among a among premium cigar consumers,
13	people who smoke premium cigars, would you say it's
14	generally known that there is an embargo against
15	sales of Cuban cigars in the United States?
16	MR. FRANK: Objection.
17	A. I think it depends on if they're a cigar
18	lover or they're an occasional cigar smoker or
19	they're a premium cigar smoker that smokes a cigar
20	once a year at a wedding.
21	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
22	Q. Okay. What do you define "premium cigar
23	smoker" as, in your mind?
24	A. As I just said, there are various levels
25	of consumers across all categories. There are

of consumers across all categories.

There are

1	people that love cigars that may smoke ten cigars a
2	week, maybe more than that; there are occasional
3	cigar smokers that may smoke on the golf course
4	every Sunday; and then there are cigar smokers that
5	are you know, they rarely smoke a premium cigar,
6	but they are a premium cigar smoker.
7	Q. Okay. So all of those fall into your
8	category of premium cigar smoker?
9	A. Sure.
10	Q. Okay. And which of those consumers are
11	the most knowledgeable about cigars?
12	A. You would certainly think cigar lovers
13	would be most knowledgeable.
14	Q. And how do you define "cigar lover"?
15	A. Somebody that smokes a lot of cigars, at
16	least probably ten a week.
17	Q. And someone who smokes a cigar once a
18	week, are they knowledgeable?
19	A. Some are, some aren't.
20	Q. And how did you go about learning what the
21	knowledge of cigar smokers were was? Excuse me.
22	MR. FRANK: Objection.
23	MR. DEUTSCH: I'll withdraw the last.
24	BY MR. DEUTSCH:



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5	Q. Mr. Willner, do you recall giving your
6	deposition in this case previously for discovery?
7	You remember giving a discovery deposition in this

A. Correct.

case in 2017?

Q. And I'm going to ask you a question or two regarding that.

MR. DEUTSCH: Do you have a copy or do you need a copy?

MR. FRANK: Why don't you give me a copy of what you're looking at.

(Discussion off the record.)

BY MR. DEUTSCH:

Q. Okay. I'm going to ask you to take a look at page 48 of your deposition. And I want you to start -- these are four pages that have been compressed for ease.

I'll ask you to start at the bottom of page 48 --

- A. Okay.
- Q. -- and just read across to --

1	MR. FRANK: Objection. What's the basis
2	for introducing this?
3	MR. DEUTSCH: I don't have to have a
4	basis. You can object, though, if you want to.
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	Q. Paragraph line 7 on page 49. So if you
7	would just look from the "No, he didn't." That's at
8	the very bottom.
9	A. So I'm to start reading this from the
10	bottom right?
11	Q. Yes, where it says, "No, he didn't."
12	A. "No, he didn't." Okay. Okay.
13	MR. FRANK: Page 48 or 49?
14	MR. DEUTSCH: Page 48, line 21.
15	A. Okay.
16	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
17	Q. And read it through to line 7 on the next
18	page, 49.
19	A. Okay.
20	Okay.
21	Q. Does your deposition does that refresh
22	your recollection that you hired Mr. Murphy in 2015?
23	A. I hired Mr. Murphy in the deposition
24	that I previously gave, which was over two years
25	ago

1	Q. Right.
2	A was probably more accurate than my
3	recollection now.
4	Q. Okay. So you have no reason to believe
5	that you were incorrect when in 2017 you testified
6	you hired him in 2015?
7	A. No.
8	Q. Okay. Now, you have only spoken
9	frequently with Mr. Murphy about the General Cigar
10	Cohiba, correct?
11	A. Please restate that.
12	Q. Is it correct that you only spoke
13	infrequently with Mr. Murphy about the General Cigar
L 4	Cohiba?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. Okay. I'm going to ask you to take a look
17	at your deposition transcript. This is page 60,
18	line 11, through page 61 I'm sorry, line 7, to
19	page 61, line 8. So starting on line 7 on page 60.
20	MR. FRANK: Objection.
21	MR. DEUTSCH: So noted.
22	MR. FRANK: Just for the record,
23	objection. Lack of foundation.
24	Is this to refresh his recollection?
25	MP DEUTSCH. I'm just asking him to road

1	it at the moment, nor do I have to give you a
2	reason why I'm asking him to read it. This is
3	a trial examination, not a deposition.
4	A. Okay.
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	Q. Okay. So at the time you gave your
7	deposition, that was closer to the events we're
8	talking about than today, correct?
9	A. I'm not sure I understand the question.
10	Q. Well, you gave this in October 2017,
11	correct?
12	A. Correct.
13	Q. Today we're at the end of 2019, correct?
14	A. That's correct.
15	Q. So the deposition was given about two
16	years ago, correct?
17	A. Correct.
18	Q. That was two years closer to your time of
19	work at
20	A. Of course, yes.
21	Q. I've still got to finish.

- Α. Correct.
- And is it correct that when -- I'm Q. Okay.

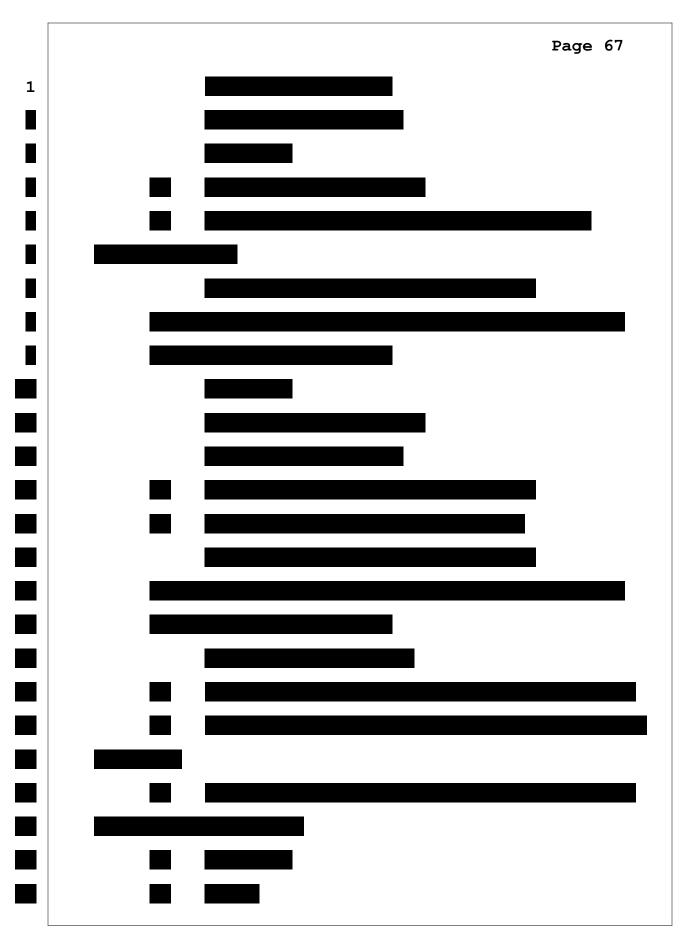
-- your time working at General Cigar,

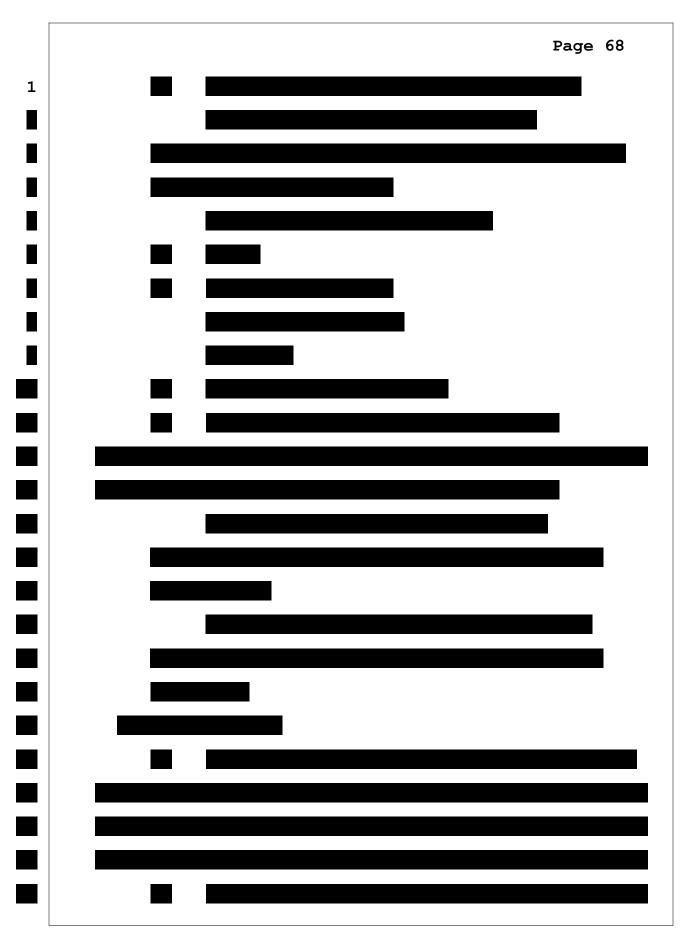
correct?

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- 5	Q. Okay. All right. Can you turn to
6	paragraph 11 in your declaration? I'll take that
7	back until we need it again.
8	Would you read it and let me know when you
9	are done.
0	A. Paragraph 11, you said?
1	Q. Yes, in your declaration.
2	MR. DEUTSCH: Again, it's Moosylvania.
3	That's M-O-O-S-Y-L-V-A-N-I-A.
4	A. Okay.
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	

	Page 70
1	
21	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
22	Q. Okay. And you didn't recall it at the
23	time that you put together your declaration or that
24	it was drafted for you, to be more accurate?
25	MR. FRANK: Objection.

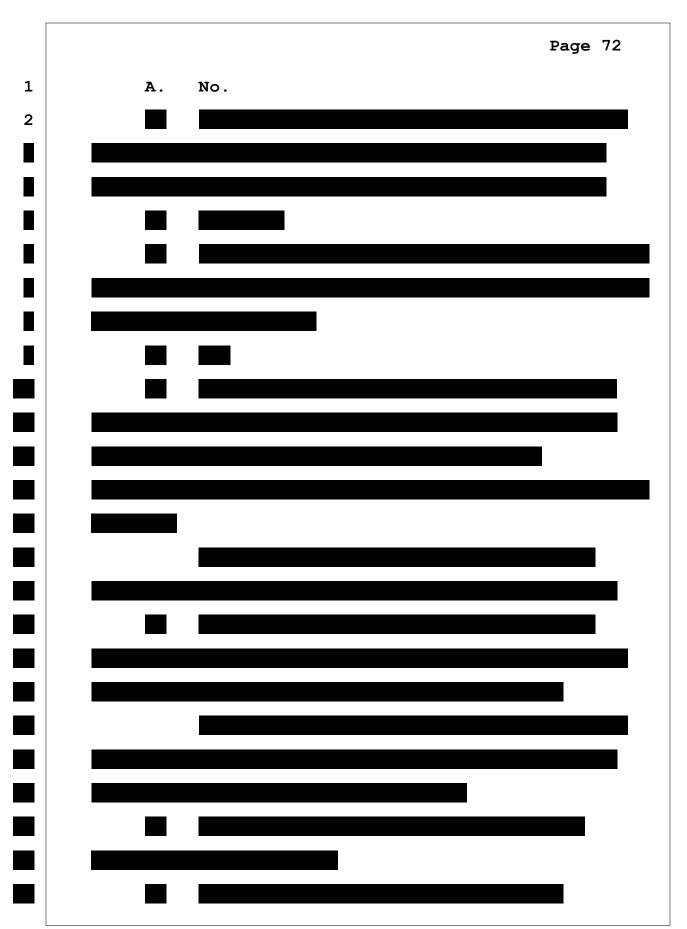
1	A. I'm not sure I understand that question.
2	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
3	Q. Okay. You previously testified that
4	Mr. Frank's law firm drafted the declaration for
5	you, correct?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. And, presumably, they had access to your
8	deposition testimony, correct?
9	MR. FRANK: Objection.
10	A. Assume so.
11	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
12	Q. And, presumably, they had access to all of
13	the exhibits that were marked at your declaration
14	at your deposition, correct?
15	MR. FRANK: Objection.
16	A. I assume so.
17	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
18	Q. And, presumably, they had access to all
19	the discovery that General Cigar had provided to
20	Cubatabaco in the course of the litigation, correct?
21	MR. FRANK: Objection.
22	A. Assume so.
23	BY MR. DEUTSCH:

when they gave you the declaration, did they?

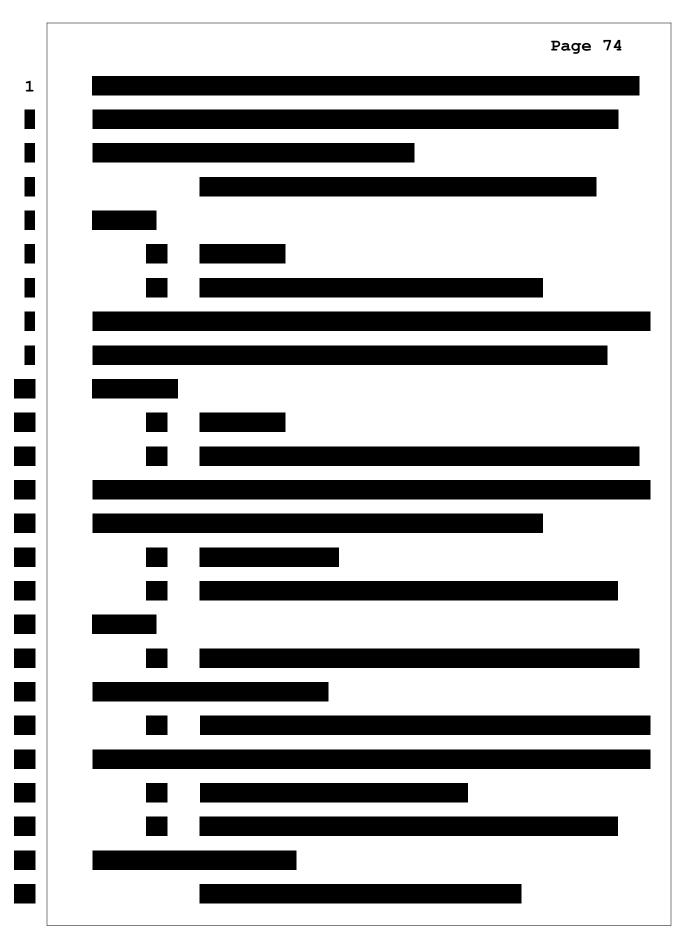
Okay. They didn't show you any of that

Q.

24



						Page 73
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			- -			
2	Q.	Okav	_	h 12	of vour	declaration,
g pleas		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- a-ag-ap		0_ 100_	,
4	Α.	Okay.				
5						



So, in fact, it's fair to say that

Q.

	rage 70
1	consumers have a close association with cigars as a
2	product and Cuba; isn't that correct?
3	MR. FRANK: Objection.
4	A. People that love premium cigars have that
5	association.
6	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
7	Q. And do you know what people who don't love
8	premium cigars associate one way or the other?
9	A. The category has so little penetration
10	that I think that there's a lot of consumers, a
11	majority, that don't know anything about cigars.
12	Q. When you say the majority of consumers, do
13	you mean the majority of cigars are sold
L 4	withdraw.
15	Is it your testimony that the majority of
16	premium cigars are sold to people who know nothing
17	about cigars?
18	A. No.
19	Q. What is your testimony, then, on that
20	point?
21	MR. FRANK: Objection.
22	A. You asked me if I understood the
23	question correctly, you asked me if consumers had
24	my words but an awareness of the Cuban brand

association to the cigar category.

When you were with General Cigar,

Q.

Okay.

L	did General Cigar always place an indication of
2	geographic origin on its Cohiba cigars? Let me
3	rephrase it a different way.
1	If a General Cigar cigar was made in the
5	Dominican Republic, did it say "Made in the"

- A. I was just --
- Q. -- "Dominican Republic"?
- A. Sorry. I'm thinking of the -- I'm just trying to recall the boxes that were marketed. And I believe that they all referred to the Dominican Republic.
- Q. And the ones that were made in Nicaragua referred to Nicaragua?
- A. Yeah. And towards -- and there were some made, very few, in Nicaragua. Actually, there was only one when I was there made in Nicaragua that would have been -- I can't recall how we labeled that package.
- Q. But as far as you know, there was no indication on the package that it was of Cuban origin.
 - A. Correct.
- MR. FRANK: Objection.
- 24 BY MR. DEUTSCH:
 - Q. Do you know of any cigar that

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	Page 81
1	General Cigar sold to the public while you were
2	working for General Cigar that contained an
3	indication that the cigar came from Cuba?
4	A. No.
5	Q. Do you know of any cigar sold by
6	General Cigar while you were working there that
7	contained an indication that the tobaccos were of
8	Cuban origin?
9	A. No.
10	Q. While you were at General Cigar and
11	heading up marketing, you were responsible for
12	advertising of General Cigar's products, were you
13	not?
14	A. Yes.

- Q. Did you review and approve advertisements before they were used?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did any advertisement, that you reviewed while you were at General Cigar, ever state that the General Cigar Cohiba was made in Cuba?
 - A. No.
- Q. Did any advertisement that you approved say that the General Cigar Cohiba was made with Cuban tobacco?
 - A. No.

15

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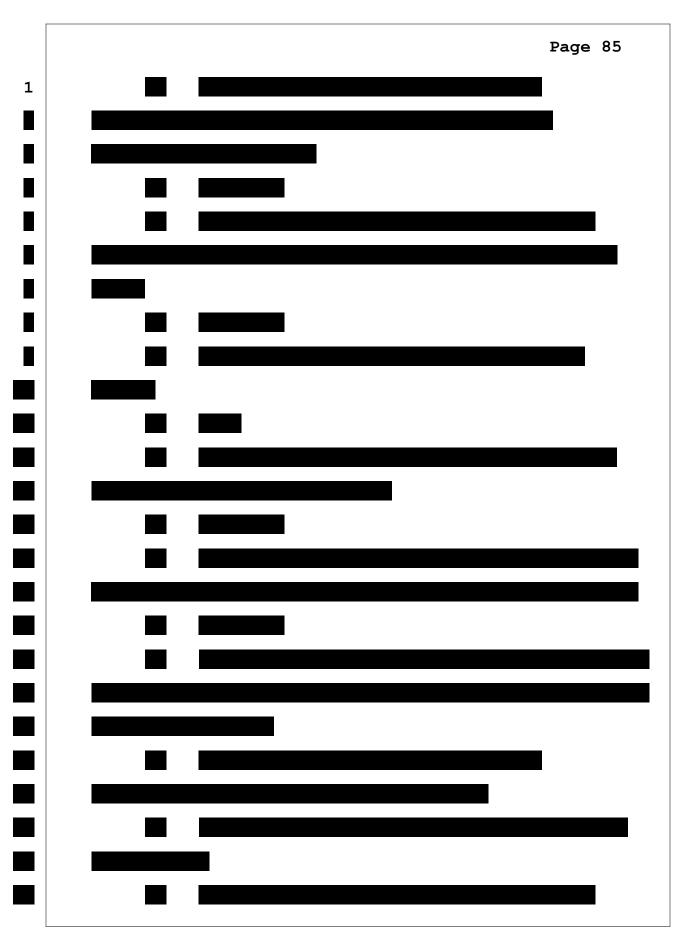
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24

1	Q. While you were working for General Cigar,
2	did you ever believe approve a General Cigar
3	advertisement that you believed would deceive the
4	premium cigar consumer?
5	A. No.
6	Q. Did you ever approve a General Cigar
7	marketing initiative other than advertising that you
8	believe would deceive the premium cigar consumer?
9	A. No.
10	Q. Did you ever take any steps while you were
11	employed by General Cigar and head of marketing to
12	deliberately confuse the premium cigar consumer
13	about the origin of the General Cigar Cohiba?
14	A. No.
15	Q. Did you ever approve any consumer-facing
16	marketing that you believed would confuse the
17	premium cigar [sic] about any General Cigar brand?
18	A. No.
19	Q. Your declaration says you've been
20	marketing for a long time, correct?
21	A. Correct.
22	Q. And do you think of yourself as an ethical
23	marketer?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. And would you agree that ethical marketers

	j
1	don't try to confuse consumers as to the origin of
2	products?
3	MR. FRANK: Objection.
4	A. I can't speak for all marketers.
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	Q. You can only speak for yourself.
7	A. Correct.
8	Q. But you've never tried to confuse
9	consumers as to the origin of products, have you?
10	A. No.
11	Q. And you don't recall ever approving a step
12	taken by your subordinates that you believe would
13	confuse consumers as to the origin of General Cigar
14	products; is that correct?
15	A. Not that I can recall.
16	Q. Okay. Could you take a look at paragraph
17	16 of the declaration.
18	MR. FRANK: Off the record.
19	(Discussion off the record.)
20	MR. DEUTSCH: Let's take a break.
21	(Recess was held from 11:15 a.m. until 11:22 a.m.)
22	MR. DEUTSCH: All right. Let's go back on
23	the record. This is really not going to be all
24	that long today, at least not for me.
25	



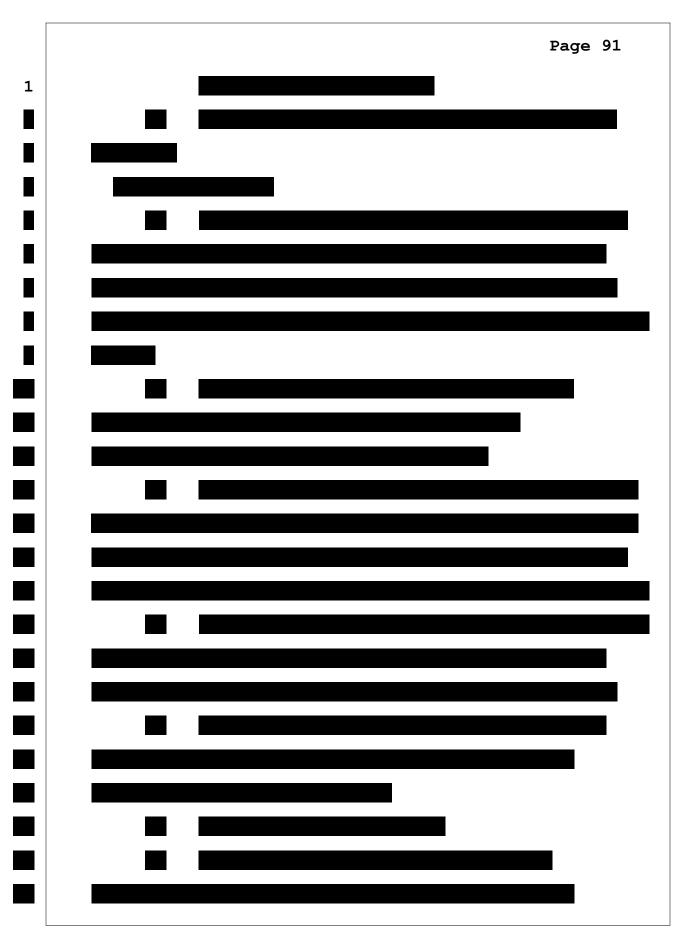
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14	Q. Okay. Have you ever met anybody else who
15	has that point of view?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. Who?
18	A. Friends, acquaintances, people that are
19	close to me as we have conversations.
20	Q. I see.
21	Are these people in the cigar business?
22	A. No.
23	Q. Okay. Now can you take a look at
24	paragraph 44 and 45 of your declaration.
25	A. 40 and 45?

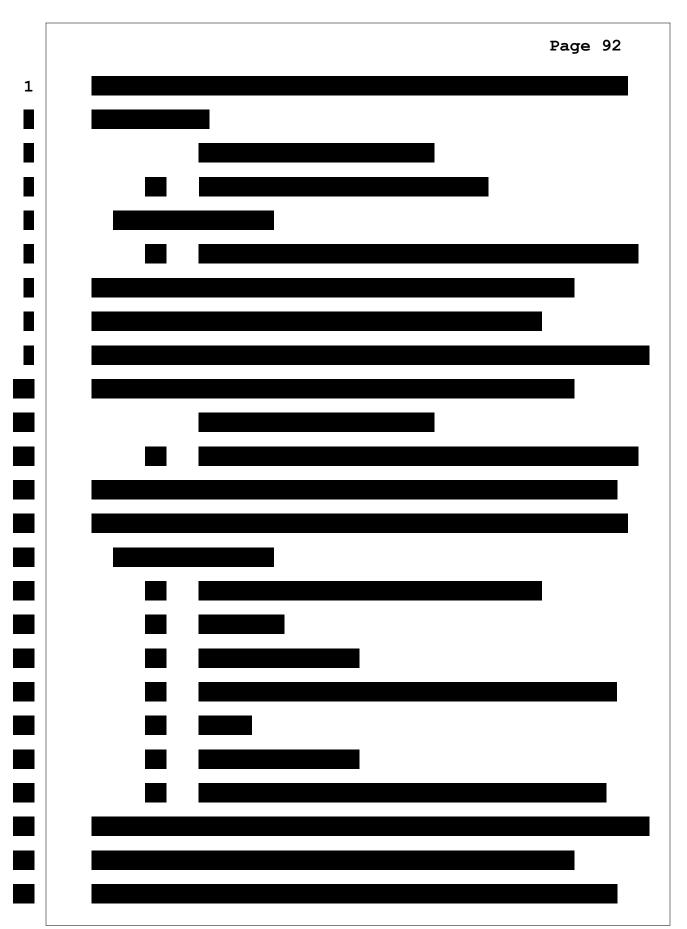
1	Q. Okay. Did you make your best effort to
2	determine that what was on the website was accurate?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. Okay. Did you believe, as director of
5	marketing, that it was necessary to include what
6	your declaration calls a Cohiba disclaimer on the
7	new Cohiba website?
8	A. The subject matter of disclaimer never
9	came up in my entire tenure at General Cigar.
10	Q. Okay. That's not quite the question.
11	Did you believe that it was necessary to
12	include on the new General Cigar Cohiba website a
13	statement that the General Cigar Cohiba is not
14	associated with the Cuban Cohiba?
15	A. First of all, I don't I haven't looked
16	at that website since I left General Cigar, so I
17	don't even recall if we put a disclaimer on it or
18	not and I don't recall any discussion about it.
19	Q. So I'm still not quite sure I'm getting
20	across.
21	I'm asking you to recall, as best as you
22	can, your interactions with the website redesign
23	while you were vice president of marketing.
24	Do you recall ever reaching the conclusion

that there was a need for a disclaimer stating that

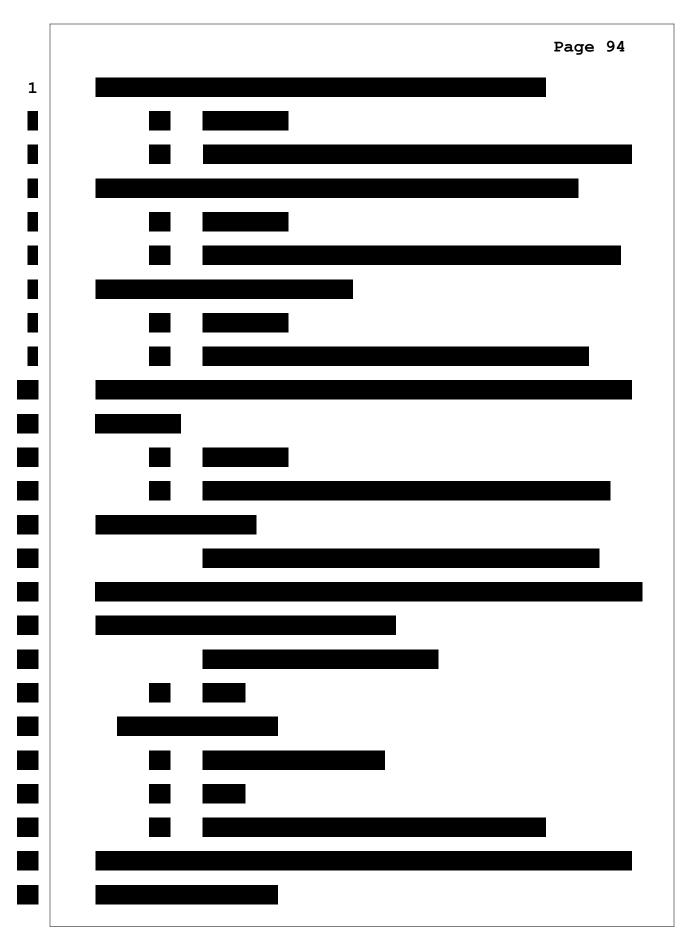
	y
1	the General Cigar Cohiba is not associated with the
2	Cuban Cohiba cigar?
3	A. No.
4	Q. Do you recall anyone else who had an
5	involvement in the website stating to you their
6	thought that there should be such a disclaimer
7	placed on the website?
8	A. No.
9	Q. Okay. Would it be fair to say that you
10	didn't think such a recommendation I'm sorry.
11	Withdrawn.
12	Was it fair to say that you did not think
13	that a disclaimer would be necessary to put on the
14	website to avoid consumer confusion?
15	MR. FRANK: Objection.
16	A. Subject never came up.
17	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
18	Q. Did you think there was anything confusing
19	to the consumer about the revamped Cohiba website?
20	MR. FRANK: Objection.
21	A. No.
22	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
23	Q. Okay. Can you look at paragraph 46 of
24	your declaration.
25	A. Okay.

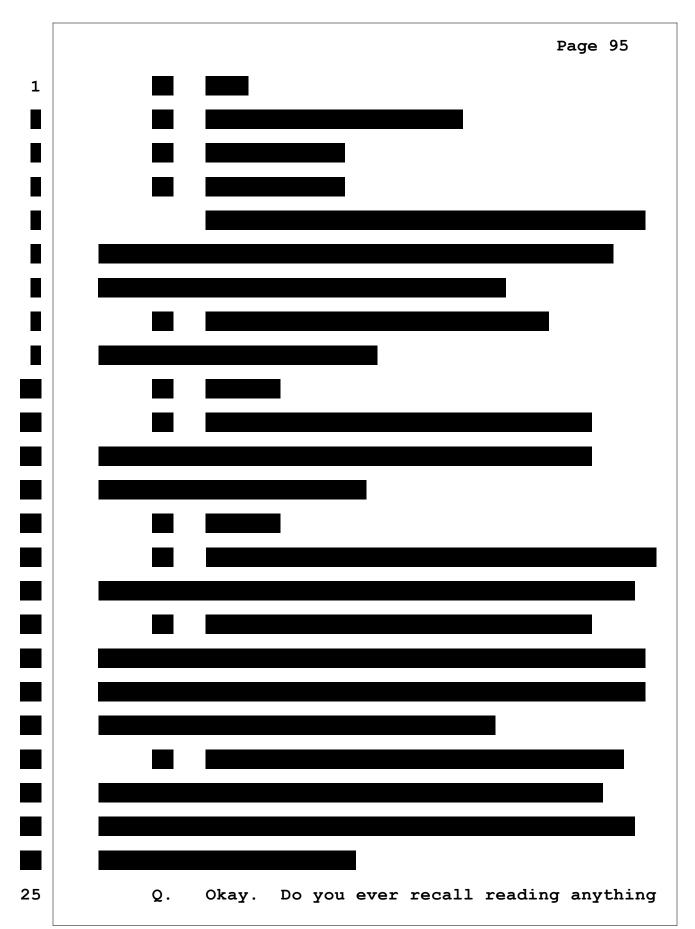
1	Q. So just to be clear, again, you were the
2	head of all General Cigar's marketing during the
3	time you worked there, correct?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. And that included advertising, correct?
6	A. Correct.
7	Q. And promotion, correct?
8	A. Correct.
9	Q. And it would be accurate to say it
10	included anything that was consumer facing with
11	regard to General Cigar's products, correct?
12	A. Yes, but tobacconists also can activate
13	consumer-facing things
14	Q. Okay.
15	A that I may or may not have known about.
16	Q. But as far as matters within your control
17	at General Cigar, you were in charge of all
18	consumer-facing initiatives.
19	A. Correct.
20	

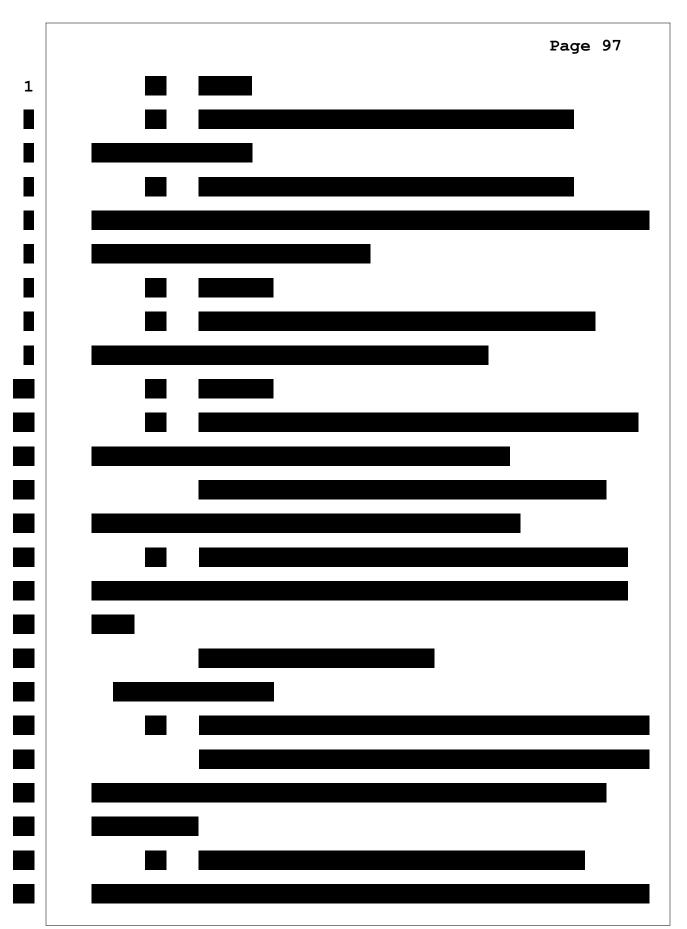


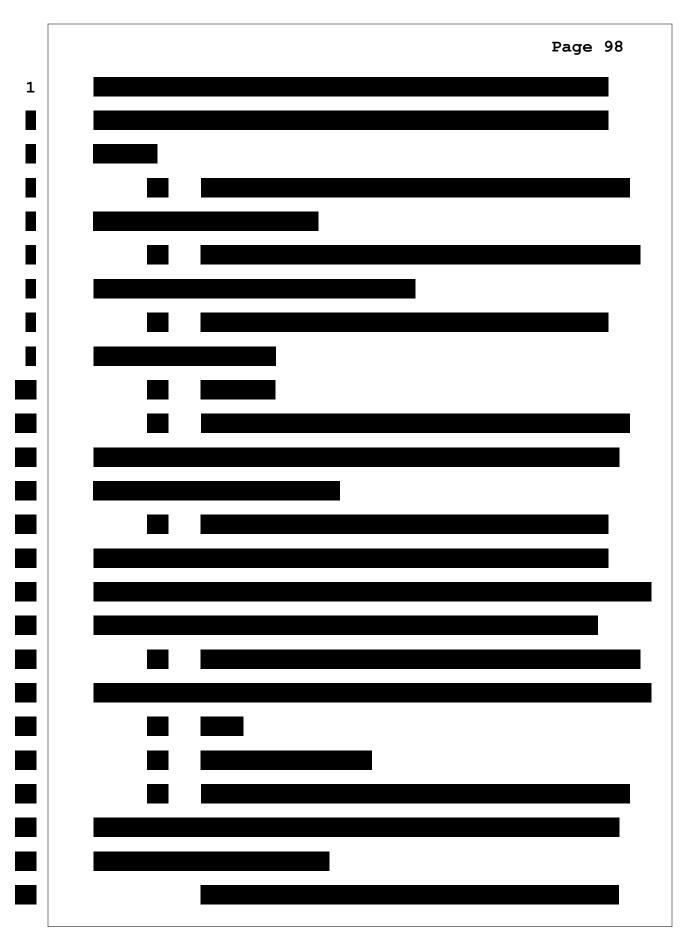


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3	Q.	Could you take a look at paragraph 47,
4	please.	
5	A.	Okay.
6		

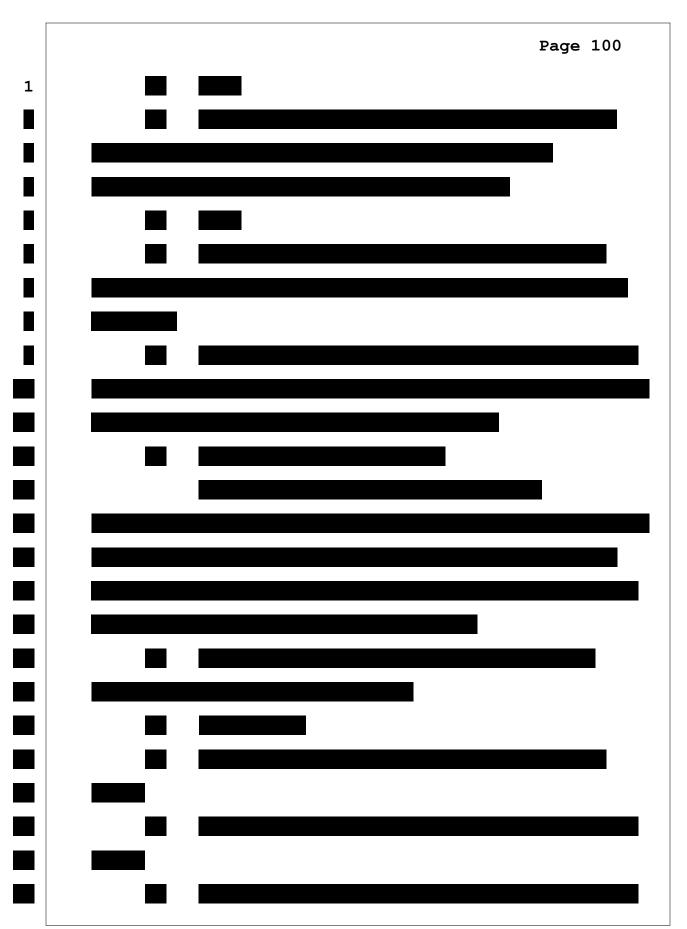








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12	MR. DEUTSCH: Let's go off the record for
13	five.
14	(Recess was held from 11:40 a.m. until 11:42 a.m.)
15	MR. DEUTSCH: We're back on the record.
16	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
17	Q. Would you look at paragraph 17 of your
18	declaration, please, and let me know when you've had
19	a chance to read it.
20	A. Okay.
21	



skilled at making premium cigars in Cuba, and

1	because of that, the quality is inconsistent.
2	And so I formed my opinion that I
3	expressed here based on that type of feedback.
4	Q. Did you smoke Cuban cigars yourself?
5	A. Have I smoked Cuban cigars? Yes.
6	Q. Were you smoking them at the time that you
7	were vice president of General Cigar?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. Was your experience with Cuban cigars
10	consistent with what you just said other people were
11	telling you, mainly that the quality had declined?
12	A. I didn't smoke enough Cuban cigars, nor
13	had I smoked many Cuban cigars previously, to make a
14	comparison. I found the experience fine, no
15	better/no worse than other cigars that I have
16	smoked.
17	Q. No better/no worse than General Cigar's
18	own nonCuban cigars?
19	A. Correct.
20	Q. You said that your friends were telling
21	you their view was the passing away of old-time
22	cigar rollers were having an effect on Cuban cigars,
23	correct?
24	A. Correct.
25	Q. And in what ways does that lack of the

And in what ways does that lack of the

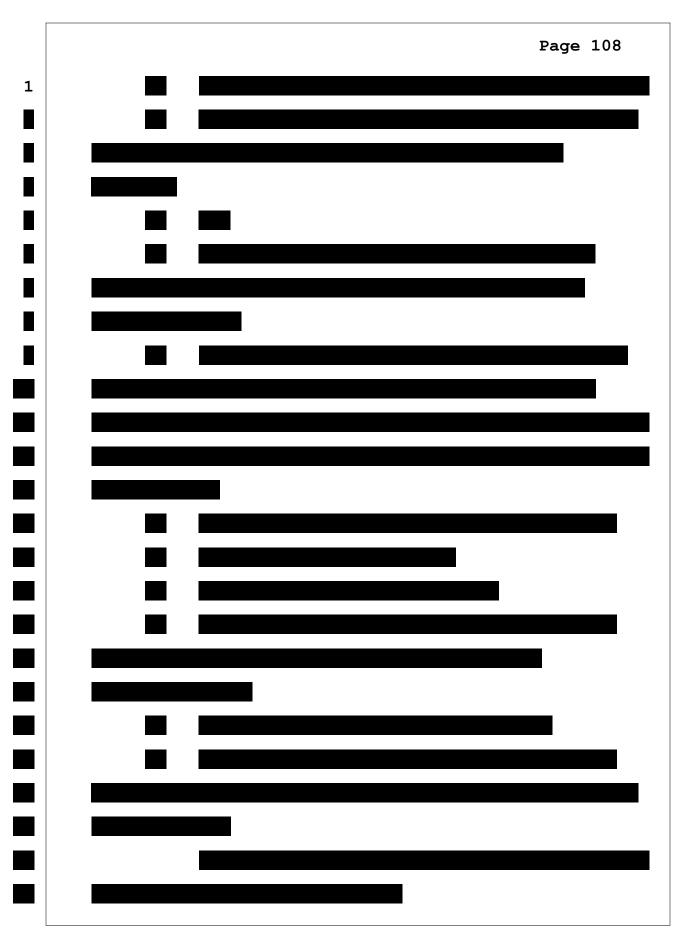
Q.

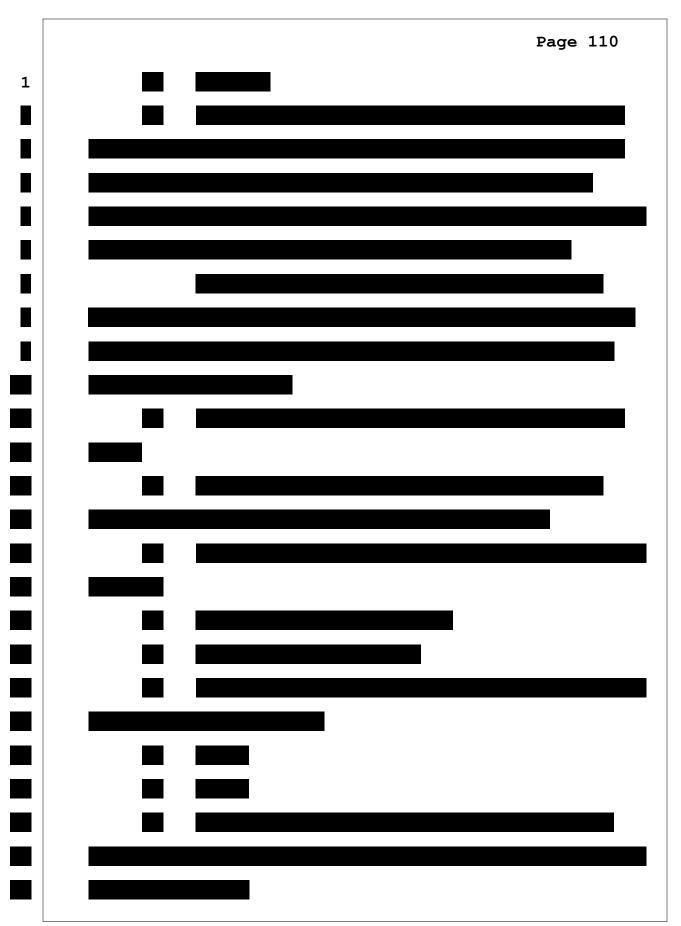
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1	traditional cigar rollers affect the smoking
2	experience?
3	MR. FRANK: Objection. Speculation.
4	Hearsay.
5	A. I don't know exactly.
6	MR. FRANK: Foundation.
7	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
8	Q. Well, did they complain about the draw?
9	Did they complain about the flavor? You know what
10	were did they tell you any more detail than the
11	fact that it was inconsistent?
12	MR. FRANK: Objection.
13	A. The word "inconsistent" is what I recall.
L 4	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
15	Q. Okay. And "inconsistent" means that
16	different cigar cigars within the same box would
17	have different smoking experiences
18	MR. FRANK: Objection.
19	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
20	Q is that correct?
21	A. Correct.
22	Q. You made various statements in your
23	declaration regarding the brand plan that was
24	presented prepared for Cohiba cigars, correct?
25	A Yes

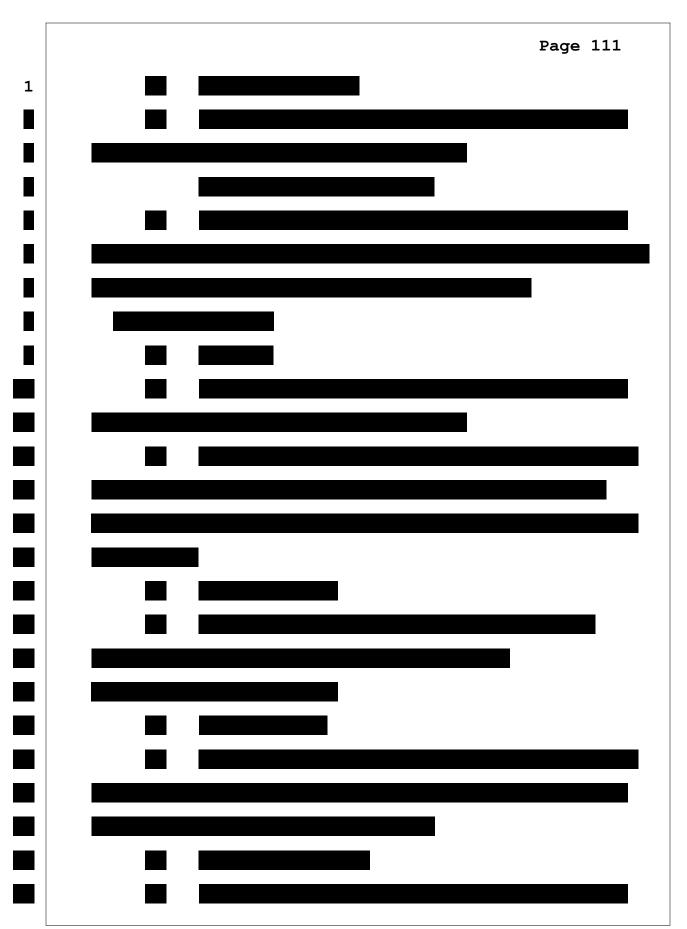
1	Q. And brand plans for other cigar brands, as
2	well, correct?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. Were these brand plans made available to
5	the public?
6	A. No.
7	Q. Were these carefully kept trade secrets of
8	General Cigar, as far as you were concerned?
9	A. Carefully kept secrets?
10	Q. Well, was this confidential information?
11	A. They weren't stamped "Confidential," but
12	it was certainly important kind of proprietary
13	information to people within our company.
14	Q. Did you want Imperial to have your brand
15	plans every year?
16	A. No, but I wouldn't be surprised if they
17	did.
18	Q. Yeah, but that's not something you wanted,
19	correct?
20	A. No.
21	Q. And the brand plans themselves are not
22	advertising, correct?
23	A. Correct.
24	Q. Okay. So any statements that were made
25	within the marketing department regarding the brand

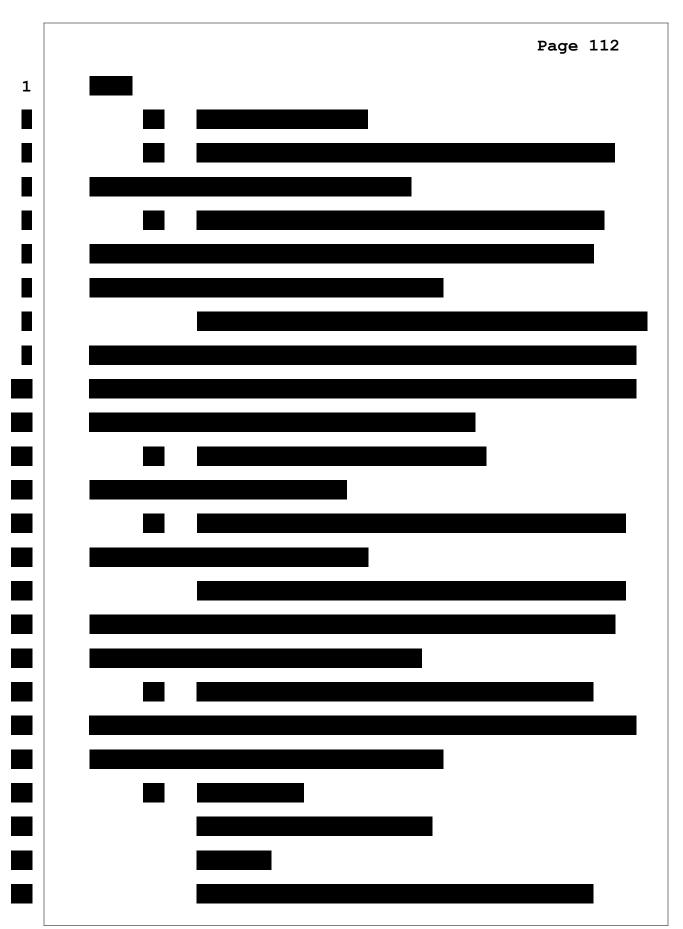
1	plan as it evolved would not be information that
2	would be given to the public, correct?
3	MR. FRANK: Objection. Vague.
4	A. Correct.
5	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
6	Q. Can you answer the question?
7	A. Correct.
8	Q. Okay. So if something was put into a
9	draft brand plan and then taken out before the final
10	brand plan was presented to senior management, the
11	public, the cigar-smoking public, wouldn't know
12	about that, correct?
13	MR. FRANK: Objection.
14	A. Well, I don't know. They shouldn't, but
15	in any company in any category, most internal
16	documents get in the market and to competition.
17	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
18	Q. But you don't know of any such documents
19	that fell into the hands of ordinary premium cigar
20	consumers, as opposed to people in the business?
21	A. I personally do not.
22	Q. Okay. And they weren't intended to be
23	seen by the general public, correct?
24	MR. FRANK: Objection.
25	A. The brand plans, you're asking?

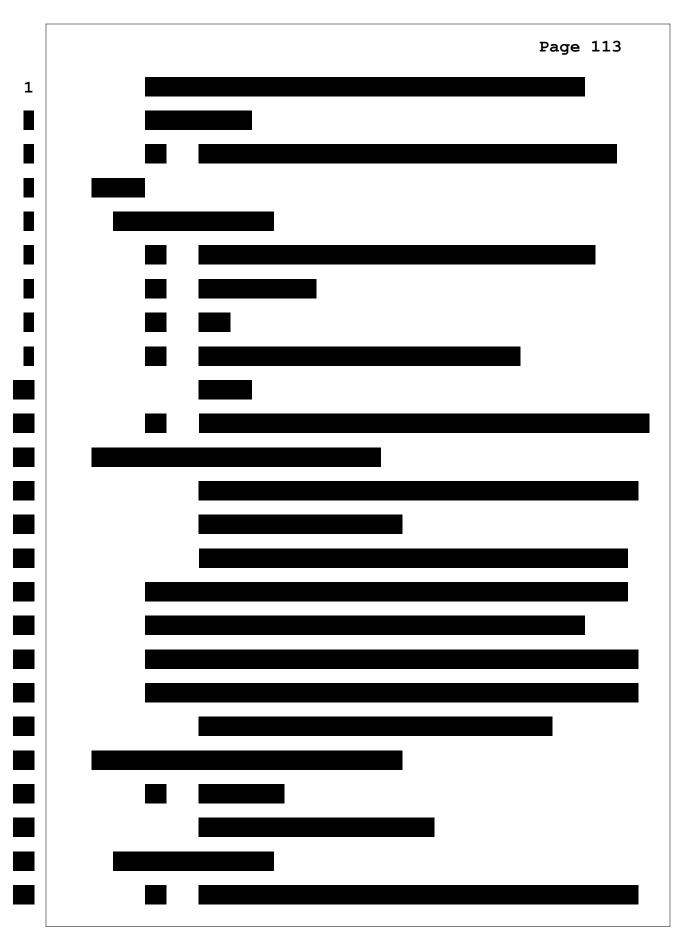
1	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
2	Q. Yes, the brand plan.
3	A. Correct.
4	Q. And drafts of the brand plans weren't
5	intended drafts of the brand plans weren't
6	intended to be seen by the public either, correct?
7	MR. FRANK: Objection.
8	A. That's correct.
9	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
10	Q. Now, you state in your declaration that
11	you were named interim president of General Cigar in
12	November 2015, correct?
13	A. Correct.
14	Q. Did you expect, at that point, that you
15	would eventually become the full-time president of
16	General Cigar?
17	A. No, although I held a little bit of
18	promise that maybe I would.
19	Q. Who appoints the president at
20	General Cigar?
21	A. It was Niels Frederiksen in Copenhagen,
22	Denmark.
23	Q. And what was his position at the time?
24	A. He was the CEO of Scandinavian Tobacco
25	Group.

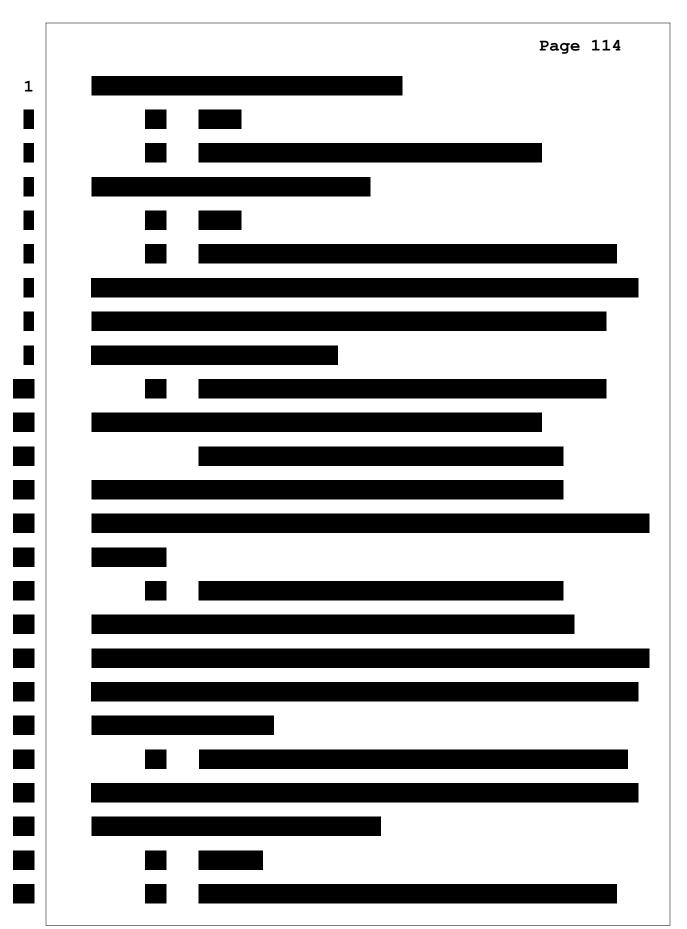


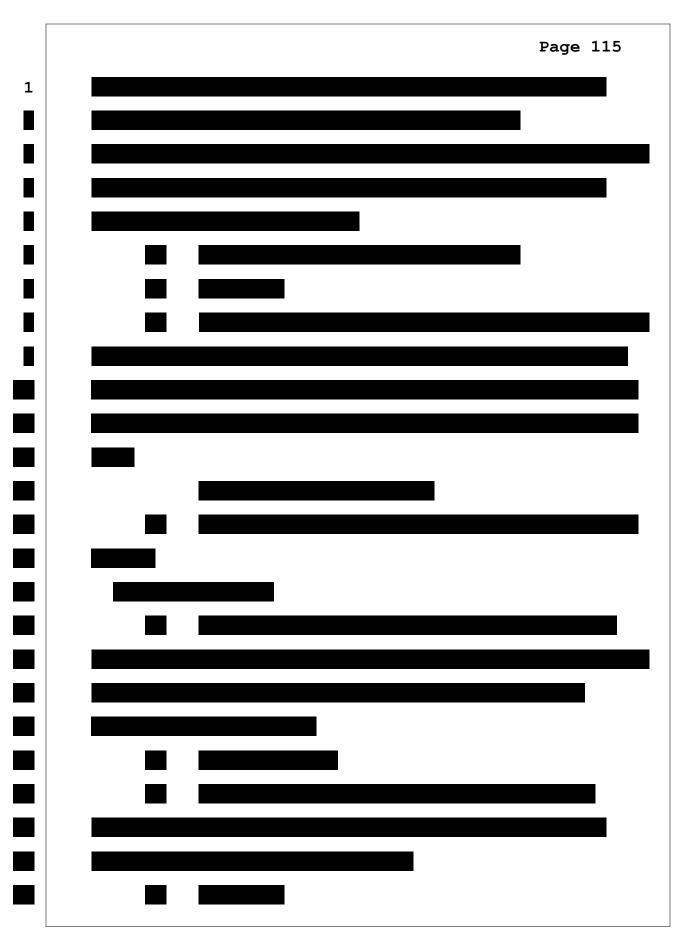


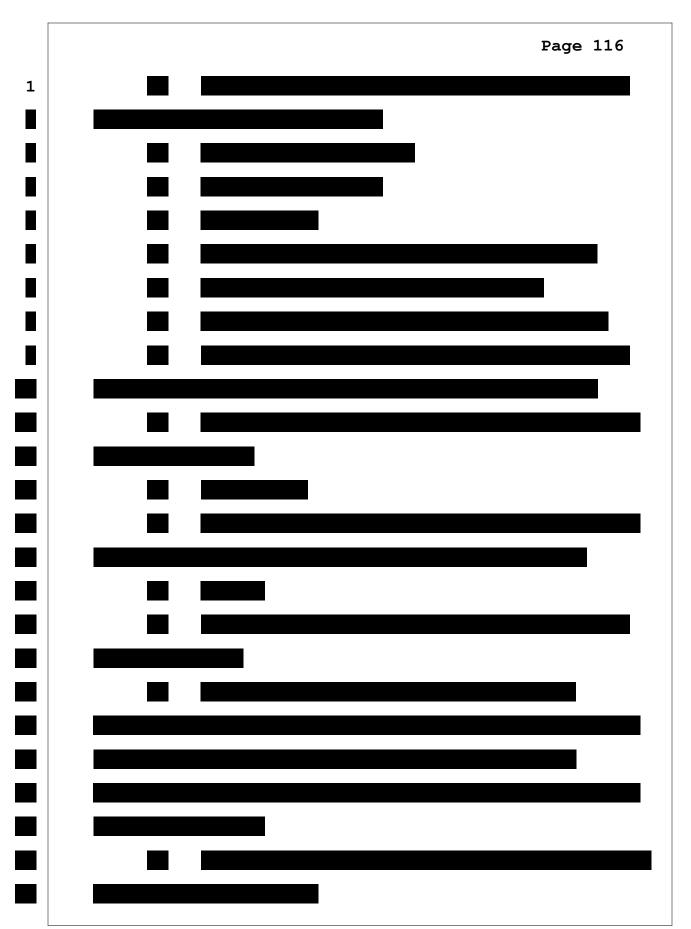












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21	Q. Okay. Now, after you left General Cigar,
22	did you seek unemployment benefits from the State of
23	Virginia?
24	A. I did.
25	Q. Okay. And was your application turned

	rage 110
1	down because you were receiving severance payments
2	from General Cigar?
3	A. Oh, yeah, yeah. It was it was I
4	believe it was initially turned down, and then I
5	think it was when that when severance stopped,
6	I believe it kicked back in.
7	Q. You filed an appeal from the determination
8	and
9	A. Yeah, I think I did.
10	Q. And was the appeal denied?
11	A. I don't recall.
12	Q. Okay. Do you recall ever do you recall
13	receiving unemployment benefits at any time while
14	you were receiving severance from General Cigar?
15	A. I think there may have been one payment
16	made by the State while I was receiving severance.
17	
20	Q. And you signed your declaration on
21	October 4, 2018, correct?
22	A. That's what that says.
23	Q. But it's a fact, what happened, right?
24	You signed it on October 4, 2018?

If that's what it says, I must have. I

A.

	Page 119
1	told you earlier that I don't recall signing it.
2	Q. Okay. And do you recall when you first
3	discussed providing a declaration for Cubatabaco in
4	this proceeding?
5	A. I'm sorry. Please repeat that.
6	Q. Do you recall when you first talked to
7	someone at General I'm sorry, Cubatabaco's
8	lawyers about giving them a declaration in this
9	proceeding?
10	A. Well, we talked about that earlier. I
11	don't remember talking about a declaration. This is
12	just what I recall. I recall getting it in an
13	email.
14	Q. Do you recall how long the process took
15	from that email until you signed your declaration?
16	A. We also talked about that earlier, and I
17	don't recall.
18	Q. Okay. But it was shortly after your
19	ineligibility for unemployment ended, correct?
20	MR. FRANK: Objection.
21	A. I don't recall.
22	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
23	

1	(Recess was held from 12:08 p.m. until 1:35 p.m.)
2	CROSS EXAMINATION
3	BY MR. FRANK:
4	Q. Well, Mr. Willner, my name is Lindsey
5	Frank. I'm the attorney for Empresa Cubana Del
6	Tabaco, DBA Cubatabaco. I'm just going to ask you
7	some follow-up redirect questions.
8	Do you recall responding to Mr. Deutsch's
9	questions about the drafting of your declaration
10	A. Yes.
11	Q earlier responding earlier today?
12	A. Yes.
13	Q. Do you recall stating that you do not
14	recall if there was a call between you and me prior
15	to you receiving the draft declaration?
16	A. I recall saying that I couldn't recall.
17	Q. Would it refresh your recollection if you
18	were to review the email attaching the initial draft
19	that you received?
20	A. Yes.
21	And if I can continue on for a second. At
22	lunch, of course, I went back and looked at previous
23	emails, so I understand the communication flow now.
24	There was numerous correspondence between
25	yourself and me, your attempts to try to get my

time.	My t	ime wa	as I	hac	d jus	st st	arte	i a	new	pos	sition
around	that	time	and	it	was	some	what	dif	ficu	ılt	for
us to	conne	ct.									

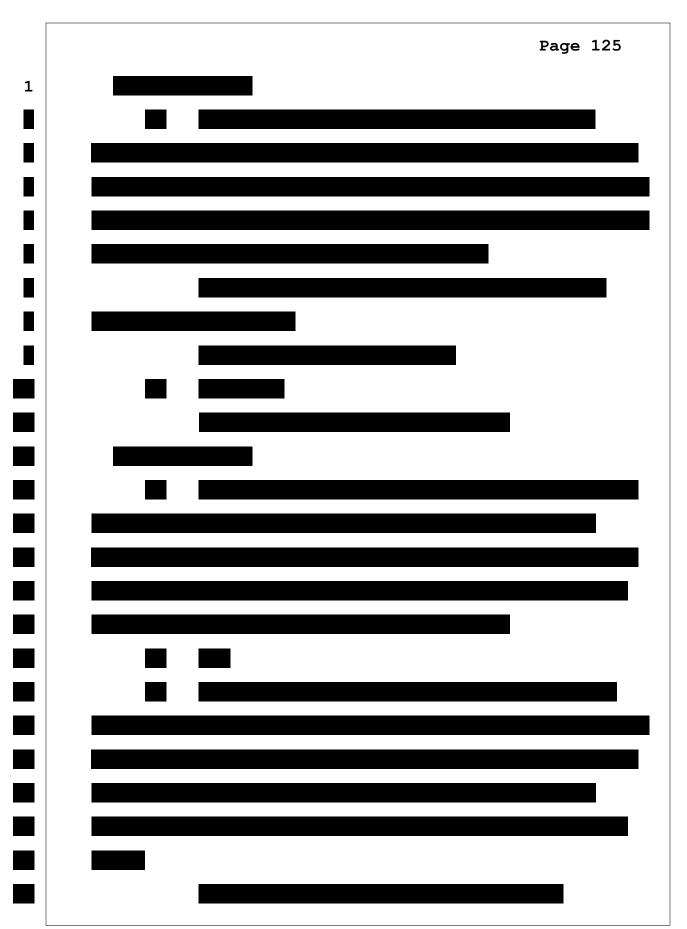
But I have specific dates of follow-up emails that were results of communication links that we had.

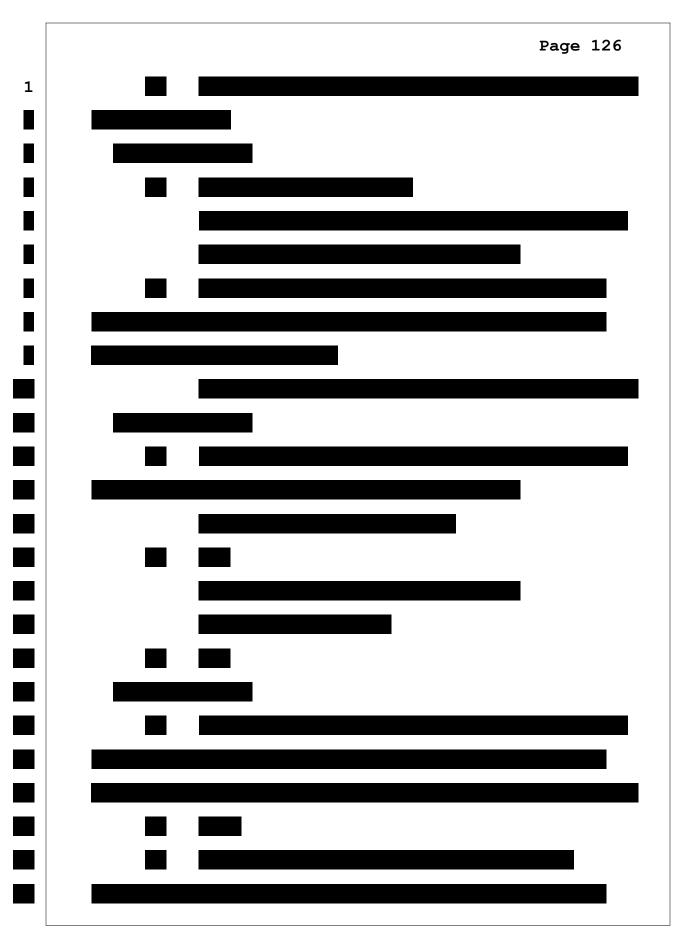
- Q. Okay. And were there any draft or drafts of your declaration that you had received prior to your signing your declaration?
 - A. Yes.

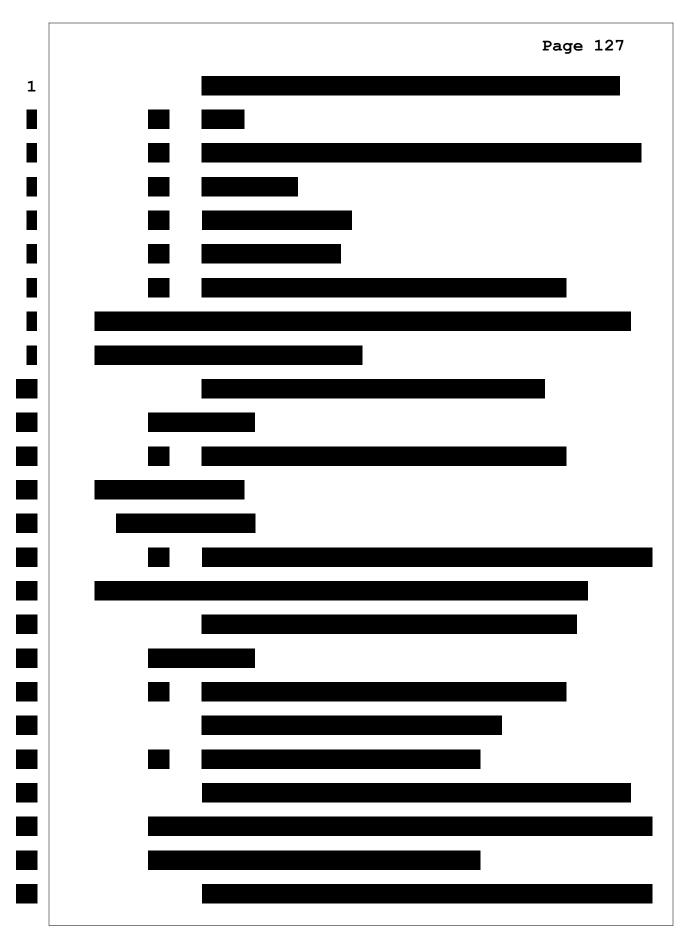
- Q. And at any point, did you have any communications with myself concerning your declaration prior to your receiving a draft of your declaration from me?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Was your draft declaration modified in any way after our communications -- after your communications with me?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. After receiving the draft of your declaration from me, did you modify it in any way?
- A. You had asked me to review it and share any changes I felt were appropriate, which I did.
- Q. And after receiving the initial draft of the declaration from me, did you have any subsequent

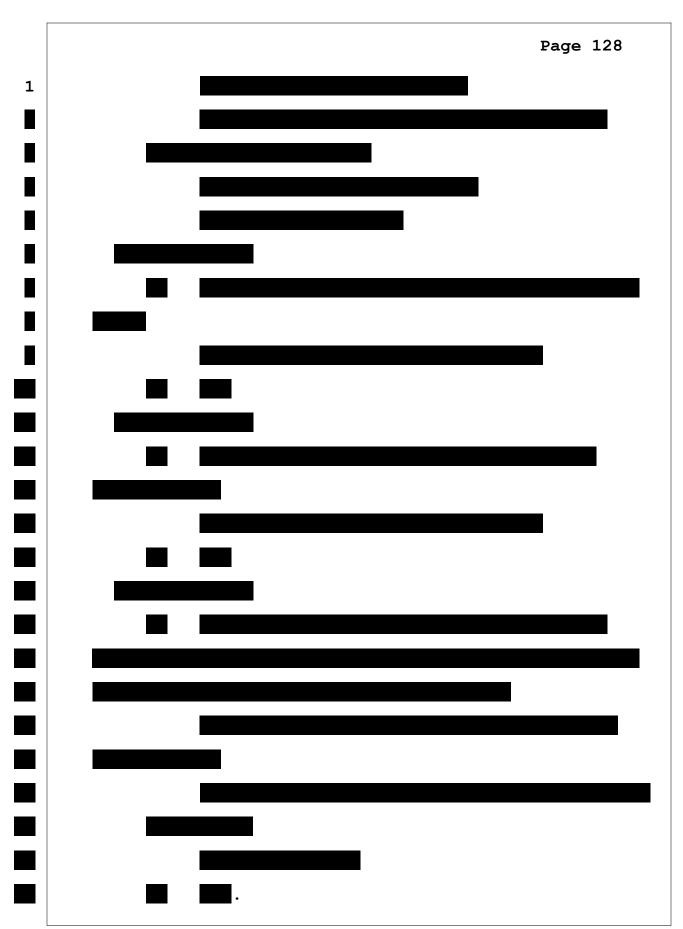
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1	conversations with me?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. Was there more than one conversation about
4	the draft of your declaration?
5	A. Yes.
6	Q. Was there more than one draft of the
7	declaration prior to your signing it?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. Before signing your declaration, did you
10	review each and every statement contained in the
11	draft of your declaration?
12	A. Yes.
13	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection to form.
L 4	BY MR. FRANK:
15	Q. Did you believe that the final draft of
16	your declaration stated the facts accurately and
17	honestly?
18	A. Yes.
19	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection. Leading.
20	Please let me just to be clear, I may
21	raise objections. I should be raising them
22	before you respond.
23	BY MR. FRANK:
24	Q. Did you believe that the draft of your
25	declaration accurately represented your knowledge?

	luge 121
1	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection. Leading.
2	A. Yes.
3	BY MR. FRANK:
4	Q. Did the email attaching the initial draft
5	of your declaration indicate that the draft was
6	based on our prior conversations and your testimony
7	at your discovery deposition during this proceeding?
8	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection. Leading.
9	Objection. Document is best evidence.
10	A. Yes, it did.
11	BY MR. FRANK:
12	Q. Do you recall a point earlier today when
13	Mr. Deutsch asked you if you had engaged in the
14	following exchange:
15	









	Page 129
1	BY MR. FRANK:
2	Q. Is that an accurate characterization of
3	your prior testimony?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. What is the Big Smoke event?
6	A. It's an event that's put on by Cigar
7	Aficionado on an annual basis to promote the cigar
8	industry and to raise money for their business.
9	Q. Does it concern anything other than
10	cigars?
11	A. It does. It's on a very, very small
12	scale well, couple things. On a small scale, it
13	involved, as it progressed through the years, some
14	brown spirits, bourbons, whiskeys, scotches, those
15	types of things. And then, of course, there's a
16	food buffet for people to pay to enjoy.
17	Q. Do cigar consumers attend the Big Smoke
18	event?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. Do you know approximately what percentage
21	of cigar consumers make up the participants of the
22	Big Smoke event?
23	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection to form. Vague.

3,000 people. So it's a very small percentage of

The Big Smoke event I recall being about

Α.

24

	Page 130
1	total cigar smokers.
2	BY MR. FRANK:
3	Q. But of the 3,000, would the majority be
4	cigar smokers, as opposed to bourbon drinkers or
5	people who are noncigar smokers?
6	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection to form and
7	leading.
8	A. Yes.
9	BY MR. FRANK:
10	Q. And do you know if you have to pay to get
11	into the Big Smoke event?
12	A. Yes, you do.
13	Q. And would you enter would you exchange
14	with regular would you exchange with cigar
15	smokers during the time of the Big Smoke event?
16	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection. Form.
17	A. When you say I'm not sure what you mean
18	by "exchange."
19	BY MR. FRANK:
20	Q. Would you interact with cigar consumers
21	when you attended the Big Smoke events?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. And in your experience, would the cigar
24	smokers you interacted with be regular cigar
25	smokers?

1	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection. Leading.
2	A. I don't have data that supports that, but,
3	yes, most of the people there were avid cigar
4	smokers.
5	BY MR. FRANK:
6	Q. Do you recall a point earlier today when
7	you had the following exchanges with Mr. Deutsch?
8	Mr. Deutsch asked you:
9	"Is it correct that you can recall one
10	instance when someone who had already smoked a
11	General Cigar Cohiba was surprised to learn it
12	wasn't Cuban?"
13	And you had answered: "Correct."
14	And Mr. Deutsch subsequently asked:
15	"You can't recall any other sufficient
16	conversation of that nature; is that correct?"
17	And you had answered: "Correct."
18	And then subsequently, Mr. Deutsch asked:
19	"I'm asking you now: Is it the case that
20	you can only recall one instance in which a consumer
21	told you that they were surprised to learn that the
22	General Cigar Cohiba cigar they had smoked was not
23	the Cuban Cohiba cigar?"
24	And you had answered: "Correct."
25	Is it fair to say do you recall that?

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Α. Yes.

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Is it fair to say that putting aside the Q. two specific instances that you had identified earlier today, one at Big Smoke and one at Club Macanudo, that you do not recall any specific instance in which someone who had already smoked a General Cigar Cohiba was surprised to learn it wasn't Cuban? Is that an accurate characterization?

That's correct.

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BY MR. FRANK:

Q. Mr. Deutsch had asked you whether General Cigar always placed an indication of geographic origin on its Cohiba cigars.

Do you recall that exchange?

- I do. Α.
- And you had indicated that you were trying 0. to recall about whether or not geographic indication had been included on the boxes of General Cigar's Cohiba cigars.

Do you recall that?

- Α. Yes.
- Are cigars sold in cigar stores in the United States only sold by the box?
 - Α. No.
 - Are they also sold individually? Q.
 - Α. Yes.
- Do you know a lot of cigars are sold 0. individually, or are they mainly sold by the boxes?
 - In retail stores, mostly individually. Α.
- And when they're sold individually at retail stores, are they generally sold from boxes

	Tage 131
1	with the lid of the box up?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And do all General Cigar cigars strike
4	that.
5	Do all General Cigar Cohiba cigars
6	indicate the country of origin of that cigar on the
7	individual cigar?
8	A. Cohiba cigars were generally maybe a
9	hundred percent, I don't recall cellophaned, and
10	then they were sealed with a little white sticker.
11	And I believe those stickers had the origin, but I'm
12	not 100 percent sure. I can't recall.
13	Q. You do not recall?
14	A. Well, I recall that they're cellophaned
15	with stickers. I am somewhat confident those
16	stickers had the origin, but I'm not 100 percent
17	sure.
18	Q. And do you know if the General Cigar
19	Cohiba cigars were 100 percent of the different
20	types of Cohiba cigars were sold with cellophane on
21	them?
22	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection. Calls for
23	speculation.
24	A. Well, no. Some were sold in tubes, not
25	cellophane. But I believe they were either tubed or

	Page 135
1	cello'd.
2	BY MR. FRANK:
3	
12	Q. And is that personal view based, in part,
13	on your experiences in the marketplace?
14	MR. DEUTSCH: Objection. Leading.
15	BY MR. FRANK:
16	Q. Strike that.
17	What is your what is that personal
18	point of view based on?
19	A. My 35 years plus of consumer packaged
20	goods experience across multiple categories and my
21	informal discussions with professional and social
22	friends over conversation like that.
23	Q. That include conversations with cigar
24	consumers?
25	A. Some, not all.

1	Q. Do you recall a point earlier today when
2	Mr. Deutsch had asked you about your statement and
3	declaration that "I do not personally believe that
4	Cuban cigars are the highest quality and best cigars
5	in the world," and you had indicated he had asked
6	why you did not believe that.
7	You had indicated that it was based, in
8	part, on feedback from consumers who had purchased
9	Cuban cigars and found inconsistencies in the form

Do you recall that exchange?

A. I do.

of the cigar.

- Q. Do you know if the cigars that these consumers had consumed were genuine or counterfeit Cuban cigars?
- A. Do I have -- no. I don't have a way of knowing that.
- Q. Do you know if there are counterfeit Cuban cigars on the market?
 - A. Many.
- Q. Do you know if counterfeit Cuban cigars are of lower quality than genuine Cuban cigars?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And are they?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Do you recall Mr. Deutsch had showed you pages 60 and 61 of your discovery deposition testimony concerning an exchange with Mr. Murphy at the Club Macanudo? Do you recall that?
 - A. Yes.

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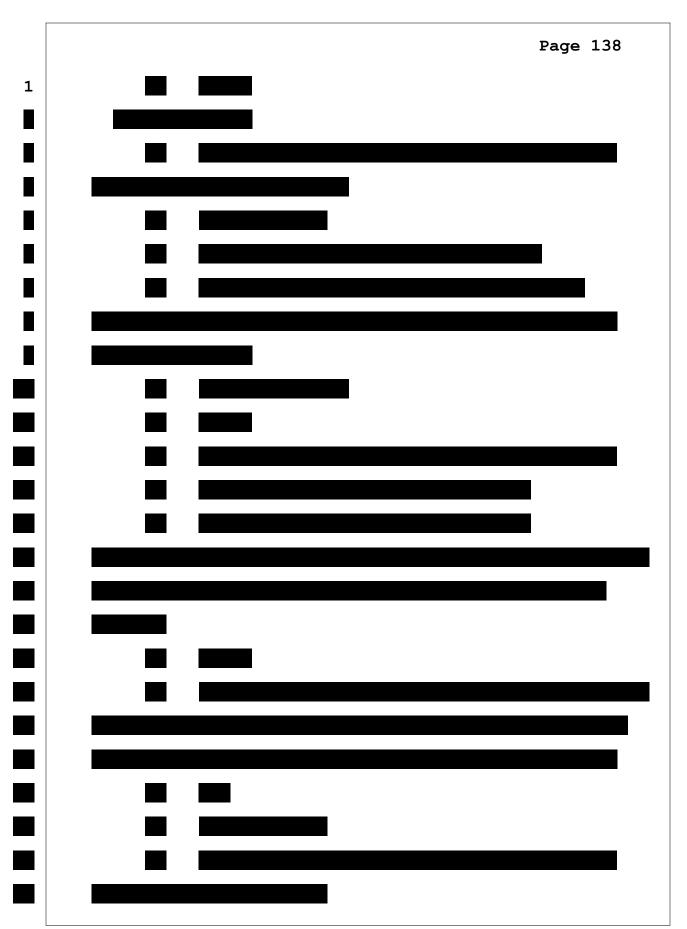
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Q. And he had asked you whether or not you had identified in those pages the conversation with Mr. Murphy that you had testified about in paragraph 10 of your declaration.

Do you recall that?

A. Yes.





	Page 139
1	
20	Do you recall strike that.
21	MR. FRANK: I'm done.
22	MR. DEUTSCH: I have one or two questions,
23	or maybe three or four.,
24	
25	

1	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
2	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
3	Q. So, Mr. Willner, is it the case that over
4	the lunch break, you looked at emails regarding your
5	communications with Mr. Frank's firm about your
6	declaration?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. And those emails are on your phone that
9	you have here today?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Okay. Would you please go to the very
12	first of those emails, read the date and what was
13	written in it into the record, please?
L 4	A. So you have to clarify. I have a lot of
15	emails here.
16	Q. The very first the very first,
17	chronologically speaking, email that you had with
18	anybody representing Cubatabaco about providing a
19	declaration.
20	Do you have that on your
21	A. Okay. Specifically after the last
22	deposition?
23	Q. After the last deposition, right.
24	A. Okay. Let's see. The last deposition
25	was

1	Q. October 25, 2017.
2	A. Thank you.
3	So it looks like the first one I have
4	after October 25, 2017, is 12/12/17.
5	Q. That's December 12, 2017.
6	A. Correct.
7	Q. And who was that email from and who was it
8	to?
9	A. It was from Dominique Thaxton, Planet
10	Depos, LLC.
11	Q. And was that about your deposition or was
12	that about your declaration? Because my question is
13	about your declaration.
14	A. This looks like this was a copy of the
15	deposition transcript.
16	Q. Okay. So my question is slightly
17	different. I'm asking you for the first
18	communication after your deposition with anybody
19	from Cubatabaco's law firm.
20	A. The next chronological email that I have
21	here is on January 5th, 2018, from Lindsey.
22	Q. That's Mr. Frank?
23	A. Mr. Frank.
24	Q. And what does it say?

Happy New Year. Would it be

A.

"Alan:

1	possible to speak on the phone briefly? If so, let
2	me know when is a good time."
3	Q. And did you speak to Mr. Frank as a result
4	of that email?
5	A. I would have to look at my sent mail, but
6	there's another email from Mr. Frank on January 7th
7	saying: "Great. I will call you tomorrow. Is
8	there a time or times that are best for you?"
9	Q. Okay. Did you have a conversation with
10	him on January 8, 2018?
11	A. I have an email here from Lindsey on
12	January 8th saying: "I will try you at 10:30 a.m.
13	It will be quick."
14	Q. Did that conversation happen?
15	A. I don't recall.
16	Q. Do you recall any conversation that
17	happened as a result of that last exchange you
18	testified to?
19	A. Well, if Lindsey's emailing on 1/8 and we
20	had a phone call at 10:30, unless something came up
21	that was pretty urgent and an emergency, I would
22	have been on that phone call.
23	Q. Okay. Do you remember anything about that
24	phone call?

A.

No.

1	Q. And when is the next email communication
2	that you had with Mr. Frank?
3	A. Well, from Mr. Frank, I received an email
4	on February 5th.
5	Q. And what did that email say?
6	A. It says: "Alan: Just wanted to follow up
7	on this. Can you let me know if you find anything?"
8	Q. Was there an email from you to Mr. Frank
9	that preceded that?
10	A. I would have to look.
11	Q. Would you, please?
12	A. Sure.
13	Okay. So there's an email from me to
L 4	Mr. Frank on January 6th. It says: "Happy New Year
15	to you, as well. Sure, call me on my cell Monday."
16	Q. Okay. Are there any other emails that
17	precede the email from Mr. Frank that you talked
18	about from February 5th, 2018, either from you to
19	him or him to you?
20	A. Well, on January 7th, I have an email to
21	Mr. Frank that said: "I am assuming this will be
22	quick. I have calls all day long but try any time
23	after 10:00 a.m. If we miss each other, I will call
24	you back."

When Mr. Frank sent you the email

Q.

Okay.

on February 5th saying:	"Just wanted to follow up
on this. Can you let me	know if you can find
anything?" Do you know	what that was referring to?

A. I would have to go back and look at this, and it's a little difficult on the phone.

I assume -- so this was January 2018.

- Q. So the particular email which I'm talking about, which you testified to a minute ago, was dated February 5th, 2018, and it was from Mr. Frank to you.
 - A. Okay.

- Q. And I just read it to you. I'm wondering if you have anything on your email or in your recollection prior to that date that allows us to know what Mr. Frank was talking about when he said "this," "Can you let me know if you can find this?"
 - A. No, I can't find that right now.
- Q. Okay. What was the next communication after that February 5th email from Mr. Frank to you that you have on your phone regarding your declaration?
 - A. It looks like September 19, 2018.
- Q. Okay. And what does that say and who is it from and who is it to? What does it say?
 - A. From Mr. Frank to me. It says: "Alan, as

you know we represent Cubatabaco. We have drafted
the attached declaration based on my telephone
conversations with you and your testimony in your
deposition on October 25, 2017. Please review
carefully to make certain that the statements in the
attached declaration are true and correct. Please
call me if you have any questions or if you want to
make any changes or clarifications. You, of course,
are free to make any changes or clarifications. If
there are no changes, please date at the bottom,
sign, scan, and return to me by email. As we
discussed, Cubatabaco intends to submit this
declaration during its trial testimony period as
your direct testimony in this proceeding in lieu of
an oral trial examination. Sincerely, Lindsey
Frank."

- Q. Do you have anything on your phone between you and Mr. Frank from February 5, 2018, and September 19, 2018?
 - A. I don't.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall any conversation with Mr. Frank between February 5, 2018, and September 19, 2018?
 - A. No, sir.
 - Q. When you received the September 19, 2018,

	Page 146
1	email that you've just read into the record, did you
2	know that Mr. Frank was going to send you a draft of
3	a declaration to be submitted in this proceeding?
4	A. I can't find anything from February 5th
5	until 9/18. I have I sent Lindsey an email on
6	September 12th. I think that's the first one after
7	my 2/5 email to him.
8	Q. And what's the September 12th one say?
9	A. It says: "Lindsey: I'm in the Bahamas.
10	Can we talk Friday? Thanks, Alan."
11	Q. Do you know if that call I'm sorry,
12	that email was prompted by a communication from
13	Mr. Frank to you?
14	A. Mr. Frank sent me an email the same day:
15	"Alan, I just wanted to try to arrange a time for us
16	to speak briefly on the phone. When would be a good

- Q. And was your email a response to that?
 - A. Yes.

time for you?"

Q. Okay. And do you recall any other communications between you and Mr. Frank between February 5, 2018, and the email you just read from Mr. Frank?

Just for the record what's the date of that email from Mr. Frank you just read?

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1	A. That's the same day. That's September 12,
2	2018.
3	Q. Okay. Do you recall any conversation with
4	Mr. Frank between February 5th, 2018, and
5	September 12, 2018?
6	A. Not from emails, I can't see any
7	conversation.
8	Q. And do you recall anything other than from
9	your emails, just from memory, about having had a
10	conversation with Mr. Frank during that time?
11	A. I don't recall conversation between the, I
12	guess, February and the September time period.
13	Q. Okay. And you said earlier, when I asked
14	you, that Mr. Frank sent you an email with a draft
15	declaration attached?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. And what's the date of that?
18	MR. FRANK: Objection. Asked and
19	answered.
20	A. That's the email on 9/19.
21	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
22	Q. So that's September 19, 2018, correct?
23	A. Correct.
24	Q. And is there a PDF there or a Word
25	document?

1	A. There's a Word document.
2	Q. Okay.
3	MR. DEUTSCH: I'm going to direct this to
4	counsel for Petitioner. I would like you to
5	produce this. I'd rather not inconvenience the
6	witness and ask him to produce it, but if you
7	want me to, I will. It's certainly in
8	evidence.
9	Will you produce it?
10	MR. FRANK: Yes.
11	MR. DEUTSCH: Okay. And we will deem that
12	marked as our next exhibit number, and we'll
13	affix the label to it when we get the document.
14	(Discussion off the record.)
15	MR. DEUTSCH: So that draft declaration
16	will be marked as Respondent's Exhibit 40.
17	(Thereupon, marked as Respondent's
18	Exhibit 40.)
19	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
20	Q. Okay. After that September 19th email,
21	when was the next email that you had between
22	yourself and Mr. Frank regarding your declaration?
23	A. I'll have to go back in sent mail.
24	Q. Okay.
25	A. But before I do that, Lindsey said, "Thank

1	you, Alan. I have implemented all your changes in
2	the attached document." That was dated
3	September 26, 2018, from Mr. Frank to me.
4	Q. Okay.
5	A. And I'll go back to sent.
6	MR. FRANK: I'll say we will produce that
7	email and the attachment without waiving any
8	objections to not introducing other material.
9	MR. DEUTSCH: Okay.
10	A. Looks like on September 26, 2018, I sent
11	an email to Mr. Frank, said, "Hi, Lindsey. As you
12	requested," and I have an attached document. I
13	don't know what it is because I I'm assuming it's
14	my declaration.
15	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
16	Q. Do you know if your if that's your
17	declaration with the changes you made?
18	A. I'll tell you.
19	Q. Okay. Please.
20	A. Yeah, it's not showing the tracked changes
21	on this particular
22	Q. It doesn't?
23	A. Yeah. So I can't answer that.
24	MR. DEUTSCH: Okay. Well, I will ask
25	councel for Potitioner to provide us with a

1	copy of the document sent by Mr. Willner to him
2	showing the tracked changes. And if he will do
3	so, we will mark that as Respondent's 41.
4	(Thereupon, marked as Respondent's
5	Exhibit 41.)
6	MR. FRANK: I believe so. I will take
7	that under advisement.
8	MR. DEUTSCH: Tell me if you find a
9	privilege that applies to Mr. Frank
10	MR. FRANK: Yeah.
11	MR. DEUTSCH: with a nonparty witness.
12	MR. FRANK: Yes
13	MR. DEUTSCH: Okay.
14	MR. FRANK: I understand.
15	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
16	Q. Okay. Mr. Willner, after you sent that
17	back to Mr. Frank, what was the next communication
18	between you and Mr. Frank regarding your
19	declaration?
20	A. It looks like and I'll have to go back
21	in regular mail; this is sent mail there's an
22	email on September 26 from Mr. Frank to me.
23	Do you want me to read it?
24	Q. Yes, please.
25	A. It says: "Thank you, Alan. I have

1	implemented all of your changes in the attached
2	document. The only changes I made were minor
3	grammatical changes and elimination of your
4	parenthetical statement in paragraph 10, which
5	appeared to be a message to me. Can you please date
6	and sign and email a scanned version of the entire
7	document back to me?
8	"I am also attaching for your convenience
9	a redlined version of the declaration, which
10	indicates in redline the differences between the

a redlined version of the declaration, which indicates in redline the differences between the version you sent me earlier today and the attached declaration. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you. Kind regards, Lindsey."

Which I responded --

- Q. Let me just stop you for a second.

 Is there an attached document to that email?
- A. The email that Mr. Frank sent to me on 9/26 had an attached document.

MR. DEUTSCH: Okay. We would ask counsel for the Petitioner to produce a copy of that document, and it will be marked as Respondent's 42.

(Thereupon, marked as Respondent's

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1	Exhibit 42.)
2	MR. FRANK: We'll take it under
3	advisement.
4	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
5	Q. Okay. Could you keep going, Mr. Willner,
6	in regards to any communications between you and
7	Mr. Frank after that.
8	A. So after that, on the next day
9	Q. Uh-huh.
10	A I respond to this, and I said, "I'll
11	get back to you today or tomorrow at the latest."
12	Q. Okay. What was the next communication
13	after that?
14	A. It looks like the next day, which is
15	September 28, 2018, I sent Mr. Frank a note and it
16	said: "I made one clarification in Section 45 that
17	is highlighted."
18	Q. Okay. And was there a document attached
19	to that email?
20	A. Yes.
21	MR. DEUTSCH: Okay. We'd ask that counsel
22	for Petitioner produce that document, and we
23	will have it marked as Respondent's 43.
24	(Thereupon, marked as Respondent's
25	Exhibit 43.)

1	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
2	Q. Okay. Were there any further
3	communications between you and Mr. Frank?
4	A. On September 28th, Mr. Frank said, "Okay.
5	Can you please just remove the highlighting before
6	dating, signing, and returning to my email."
7	Q. Was there an attached document to that
8	email?
9	A. I don't believe so.
10	Q. Okay. What was the next communication
11	from you to Mr. Frank?
12	A. On the same date, I said, "Yep."
13	Q. And that was it?
L 4	A. (Nodding head).
15	Q. Were there any further communications
16	between you and Mr. Frank?
17	A. I would have to go back to the in mail.
18	In the sent mail, on October 2, 2018,
19	Mr. Frank wrote, "Alan, I just wanted to follow up
20	on my email from Sunday night (below), and I'm also
21	attaching a version of the same document with
22	today's date. Please let me know if you have any
23	questions. Hope you are well. Best regards,

And was there an attached document to that

Lindsey."

Q.

23

24

attachment,

"My printer

	Page 154
1	email?
2	A. No.
3	Q. Okay. So the email makes a reference to
4	an attachment, but you find no attachment?
5	A. That's the way it looks to me.
6	MR. DEUTSCH: Okay. I'm going to ask
7	counsel for Petitioner that if there is, in
8	fact, in the email that he sent to the witness
9	on October 2, 2018, if there was an attachment
10	we would ask that that be produced, and we
11	would mark it as Respondent's 44.
12	(Thereupon, marked as Respondent's
13	Exhibit 44.)
14	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
15	Q. Okay. Were there any further
16	communications either from you to Mr. Frank or
17	Mr. Frank to you?
18	A. October 3rd, I sent an email: "My printe
19	is not working properly. Please overnight the
20	document to me and I will get back to you via PDF."
21	Q. Okay. Any further communications?
22	A. Okay. Then in my sent box, which I'm in
23	now, it jumps all the way to September 30, 2019.
24	Q. So there are no further communications

between you and Mr. Frank prior to the date of your

	rage 133
1	signed declaration, which is October 4, 2018; is
2	that correct?
3	A. Well, let me look in the regular box, not
4	the sent.
5	But, yeah, like I said, I had
6	conversation I sent a reply to Mr. Frank on 10/2.
7	The next message in my sent box was responding to
8	something on 10/7.
9	Let me look in the in box.
10	(Discussion off the record.)
11	A. I had an email on October 7, 2019.
12	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
13	Q. And who was that from or to?
14	A. From Mr. Frank to me: "Alan, let me know
15	when would be a good time to speak. It should not
16	take that long."
17	MR. FRANK: 2019.
18	MR. DEUTSCH: That's 2019 now.
19	A. '19, yeah.
20	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
21	Q. And so that is the only communication you
22	have on your I'm sorry.
23	That is the first communication you have
24	on your email with Mr. Frank, sorry, since the date
25	of your doclaration, which was October 4th correct

1	2018?
1	2018

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- A. I'll check here.
- Yeah, the first was on 10/2/19.
 - Q. Okay. So just going back to your -- the list of emails that you read me, the very first email between -- after February 5, 2018, was September 12, 2018, from Mr. Frank; is that correct?
 - A. All right. So am I -- I'm going back and forth.
 - Q. Well, we're just -- I just -- I'm just nailing down one point.
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. So September 12 -- on September 12, you sent an email to Mr. Frank saying, "Lindsey, I'm in the Bahamas. Can we talk Friday?"

And that's September 12, 2018, correct?

- A. I'm looking right now.
 - September 12, 2018, yes.

1	Q. Okay. Few more questions.
2	You were asked a few questions on redirect
3	by Mr. Frank about the Big Smoke event.
4	Is this an annual event that Cigar
5	Aficionado held?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. And was it held every year that you were
8	working for General Cigar?
9	A. I think so.
10	Q. And you say that is this the biggest of
11	cigar events that happened over the course of a year
12	that are consumer involving?
13	MR. FRANK: Objection.
14	A. Yes, I think so.
15	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
16	Q. And it's correct you testified that maybe
17	3,000 consumers attend these?
18	A. That's what I recollect.
19	Q. Okay. And of those 3,000 people at each
20	of the Big Smoke events that you attended over your
21	five and a half years, how many people come up to
22	you and said anything to indicate they were confused
23	about the origin of the General Cigar Cohiba?
24	A. That I can recall, one.

Mr. Frank asked you about the way

Okay.

Q.

in which	Gener	ral Ci	igaı	c Col	niba ci	gars	are s	sold,	and
you said	that	some	of	the	cigars	are	sold	in a	tube;
is that o	correc	ct?							

A. Correct.

- Q. Do the tubes have -- when you were working for General Cigar, did the tubes have a geographical origin on them?
- A. I believe the tubes may have had the origin printed on them.
- Q. Okay. Have you ever smelt a counterfeit Cuban cigar?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And did you know it was counterfeit at the time?
 - A. No.
- Q. Okay. How did you learn subsequently it was a counterfeit?
- A. Well, I wasn't in the business and I was at a gas station and I paid \$6 for it and it was horrible.

And subsequently, as I got into the business, being more knowledgeable, I knew it was a counterfeit.

Q. So you talked to some friend -- you testified you talked to some friends who said they

	y
1	were dissatisfied with the consistency of Cuban
2	cigars they were smoking, correct?
3	MR. FRANK: Objection.
4	A. Yes.
5	MR. FRANK: Mischaracterization.
6	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
7	Q. Were these friends who were able to buy
8	Cuban cigars outside of the United States?
9	MR. FRANK: Objection. Speculation.
10	A. I don't know.
11	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
12	Q. You don't know where they got the cigars?
13	A. No.
14	MR. FRANK: Objection.
15	BY MR. DEUTSCH:
16	Q. Do you know if they were counterfeit
17	cigars?
18	A. I assume they weren't, but I don't know
19	for sure.
20	Q. You assume they were?
21	A. Well, I assume they were not
22	counterfeit
23	MR. FRANK: Objection.
24	A but I did not know for sure.
25	

212-267-6868

1 BY MR. DEUTSCH:

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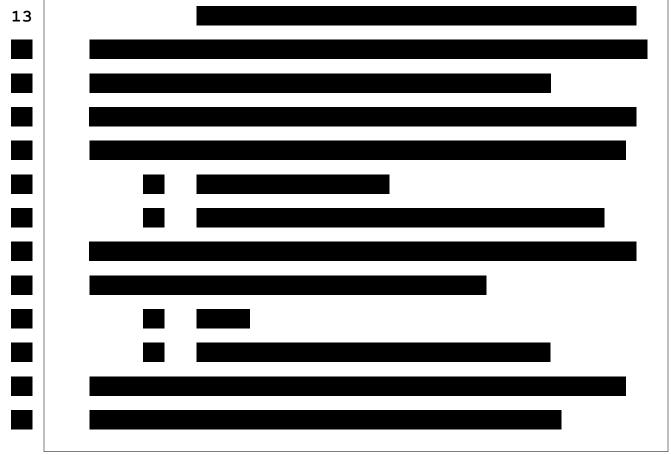
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11

- Q. Okay. Did your friends ever tell you how they acquired the Cuban cigars for which they were dissatisfied?
 - A. I don't think I asked.
- Q. Okay. So you don't know one way or the other?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Mr. Frank asked you about a statement on page 234, I believe. Give me just a second. Well, I'll withdraw that. Give me just a second to read the exact exchange.



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22	Q.	And you worked on your declaration for a
23	number of	days, correct?
24	Α.	I don't know how long I worked on it for.
25	Q.	Well, there were exchanges back and forth

	rage 102
1	between you and Mr. Frank of different drafts,
2	correct?
3	A. Correct.
4	Q. You had the opportunity to correct drafts,
5	correct?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Whereas at your deposition, you were
8	having to answer questions on the fly, correct?
9	A. Correct.
10	Q. So you gave some thought to the facts and
11	your recollection of the facts before you signed
12	your declaration, correct?
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. And as far as you're concerned, you stated
15	all the facts that are relevant to conversations
16	with Mr. Murphy regarding consumer confusion about
17	the Cohiba in your declaration, correct?
18	A. What's in my declaration I stand by.
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Q.	Okay.	And	you	didn't	t 1	recall	them	when	you
prepared	your de	clara	ation	n.					

A. This is the one instance that I do recall.

MR. DEUTSCH: Okay. That's all my questions. Thank you very much. Appreciate your time.

THE WITNESS: You're welcome. Safe trip back.

MR. DEUTSCH: You too.

MR. FRANK: Oh, can I ask just one clarification question? It's just about the Big Smoke.

RECROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. FRANK:

- Q. You testified that at the Big Smoke event, there are 3,000 people who attend; is that correct?
 - A. To the --
 - Q. Approximately.
- A. Yeah, I think I said to the best of my recollection. I don't know for sure.

1	Q. Of those 3,000, are those 3,000 consumers
2	or do they also include retailers and other people
3	in the cigar industry?
4	A. They also include other people interested
5	in cigars.
6	Q. And do you know how many of the
7	approximately 3,000 were cigar consumers?
8	A. I don't know, but my instinct tells me a
9	majority.
10	Q. And do you know how many approximately
11	how many interactions you would have with cigar
12	consumers at any one Big Smoke event?
13	A. How many I would have? Me personally
14	or
15	Q. Strike that.
16	Do you know how many interactions you,
17	personally, would have with cigar consumers
18	concerning General Cigar's Cohiba cigar?
19	A. Hundreds.
20	Wait. Strike that. Regarding Cohiba
21	cigars?
22	Q. Correct.
23	A. It depends. I first only heard "cigars,"
24	which is why I said what I said.
25	It's a little bit like we used to call

1	it trick or treat for adults, where they go from
2	manufacturer to manufacturer and you put a cigar in
3	their bag. So there's hundreds of people walking
4	by. Some are more conversational than others. The
5	conversations are always very quick and we just got
6	to get them through the line. But, you know,
7	personally, you touch base with, engage with in one
8	way or another, hundreds of people.
9	Where we gave out Cohiba, it would have
10	been a lot of people. Where we we didn't always
11	give out Cohiba. In that case, it would probably be
12	zero.
13	MR. FRANK: I'm done.
14	THE WITNESS: Okay.
15	MR. DEUTSCH: We're all done. Again,
16	thank you.
17	MR. FRANK: Very good. Thank you,
18	Mr. Willner.
19	(The proceedings concluded at 2:39 p.m.)
20	
21	ALAN WILLNER
22	Subscribed and sworn to before me this
23	day of, 2019.
24	
25	NOTARY PUBLIC

	Page 166
1	CERTIFICATE OF OATH
2	
3	
4	STATE OF FLORIDA
5	COUNTY OF BROWARD
6	
7	
8	I, the undersigned authority, certify
9	that ALAN WILLNER personally appeared before me
10	
11	and was duly sworn on the 13th day of December,
12	
13	2019.
14	
15	Signed this 17th day of December, 2019.
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	RU
21	AL
22	KIMBERLY FONTALVO, RPR, CLR
23	Notary Public, State of Florida
24	My Commission No. GG 358422
25	Expires: 7/24/2023

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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	STATE OF FLORIDA
4	COUNTY OF BROWARD
5	
6	
7	I, KIMBERLY FONTALVO, Registered
8	Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I
9	was authorized to and did stenographically report
LO	the foregoing testimony of ALAN WILLNER; and that
L1	the transcript is a true record of my
L2	stenographic notes.
L3	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a
L 4	relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any
L5	of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee
L 6	of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel
L 7	connected with the action, nor am I financially
18	interested in the action.
L 9	
20	Dated this 17th day of December, 2019.
21	
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23	211
24	Ffl
25	KIMBERLY FONTALVO, RPR, CLR

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Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 30

- (e) Review By the Witness; Changes.
- (1) Review; Statement of Changes. On request by the deponent or a party before the deposition is completed, the deponent must be allowed 30 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available in which:
- (A) to review the transcript or recording; and
- (B) if there are changes in form or substance, to sign a statement listing the changes and the reasons for making them.
- (2) Changes Indicated in the Officer's Certificate. The officer must note in the certificate prescribed by Rule 30(f)(1) whether a review was requested and, if so, must attach any changes the deponent makes during the 30-day period.

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING FEDERAL PROCEDURE RULES

ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,

2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE FEDERAL RULES

OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the matter of Trademark Registration No. 1147309 For the mark COHIBA Date registered: February 17, 1981

AND

In the matter of the Trademark Registration No. 1898273 For the mark COHIBA Date registered: June 6, 1995

EMPRESA CUBANA DEL TABACO, d.b.a. CUBATABACO,

Petitioner,

Cancellation No. 92025859

٧.

GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC. and CULBRO CORP.

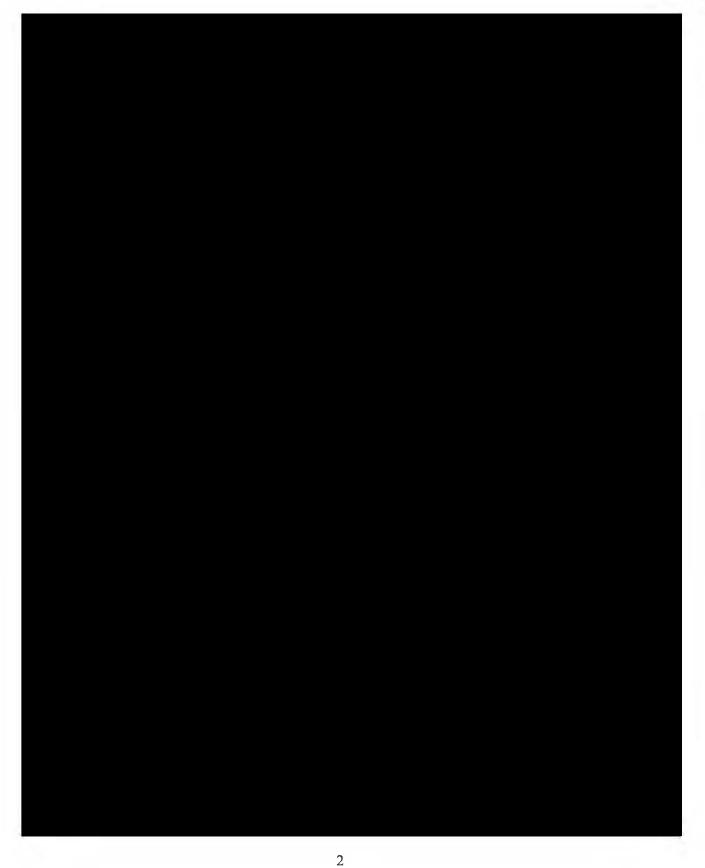
Respondents.

DECLARATION OF ALAN S. WILLNER

ALAN S. WILLNER declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct:

1. Between August 2011 and November 2016, I held the position of Vice President of Marketing at General Cigar Co., Inc. and, from November 2015 to February 2016, I served as General Cigar's Interim President, in addition to my role as Vice President of Marketing. When General Cigar's current President, Regis Broersma, was named in February 2016, I returned to my position as Vice President of Marketing until November 2016.

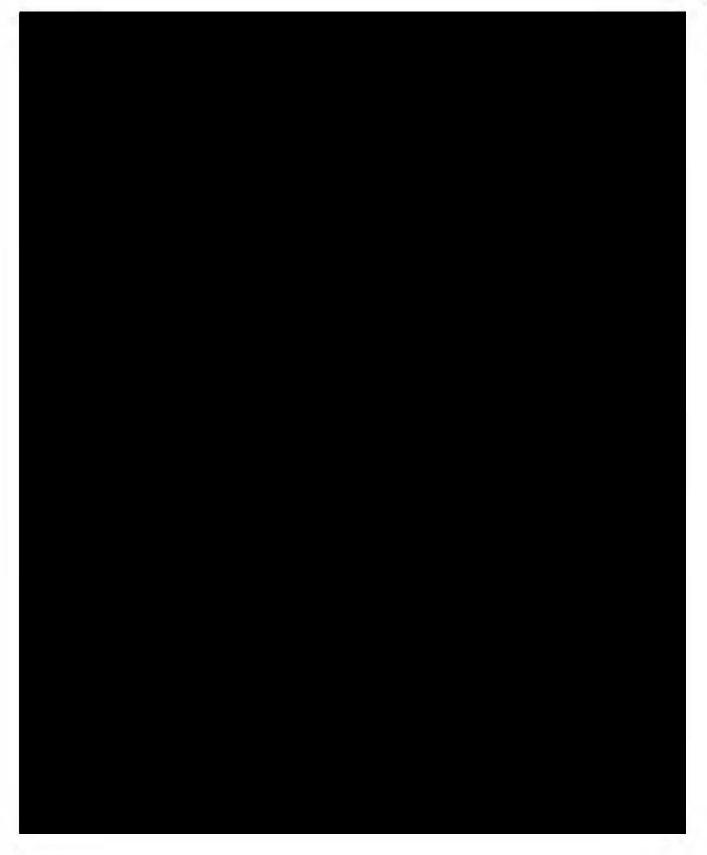
RESPONDENT'S EXHIBIT 38
Cancellation No. 92025859
Empresa Cubana del Tabaco, d.h.a Cubatabaco y.
General Cigar Co., Inc. et al.



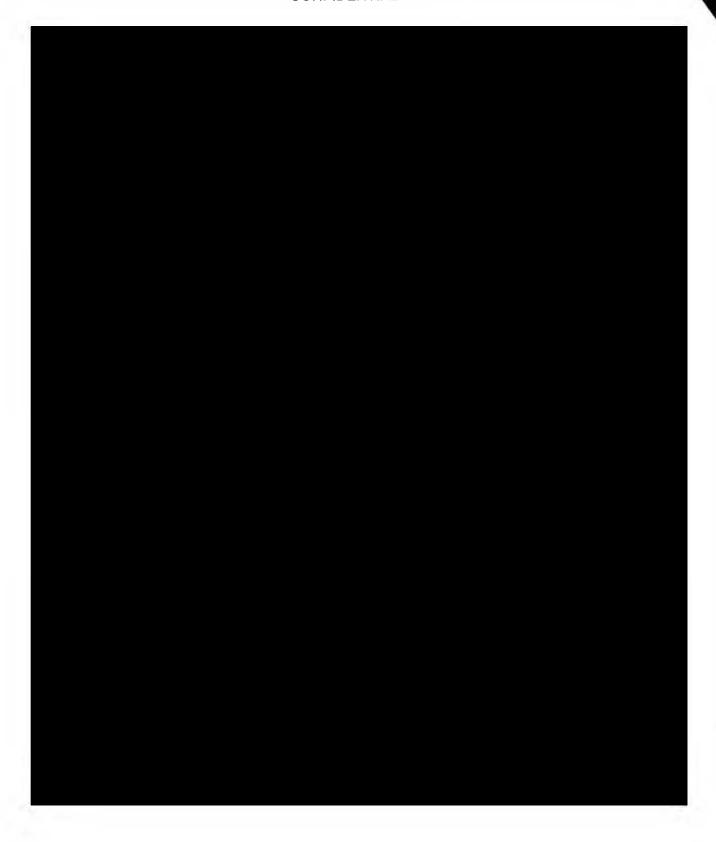


7. I provide more details concerning my professional and educational background below.







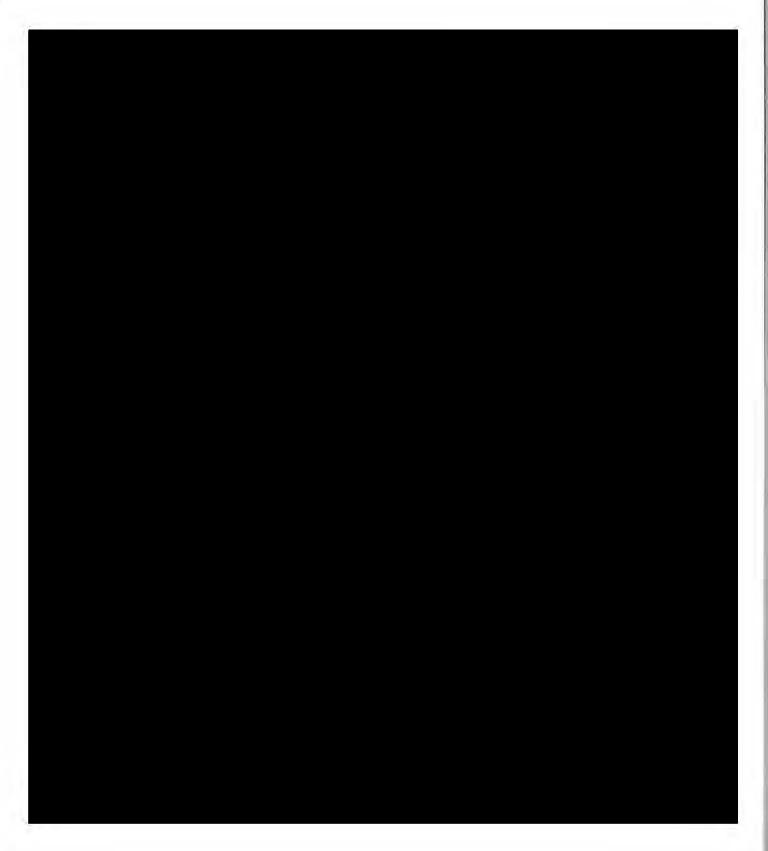


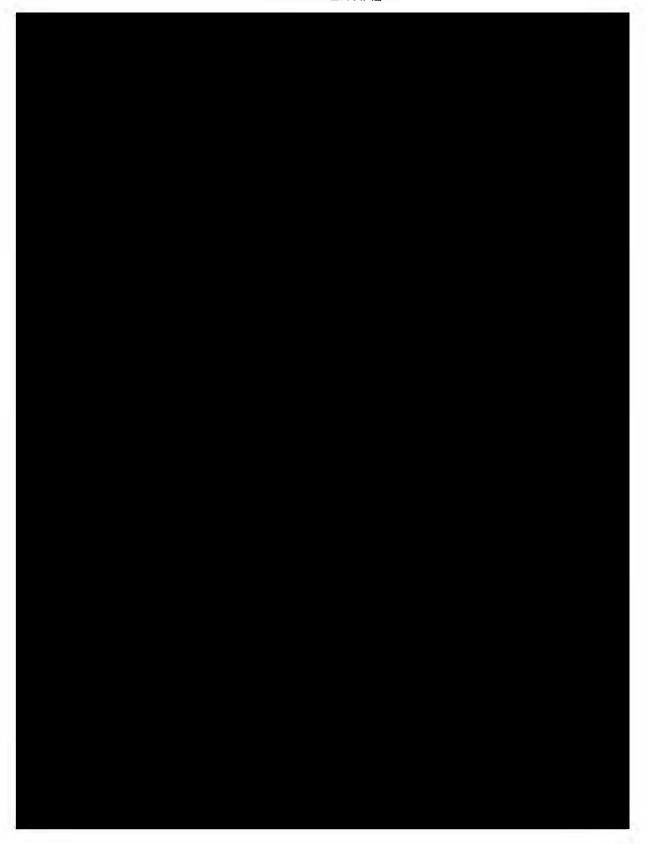


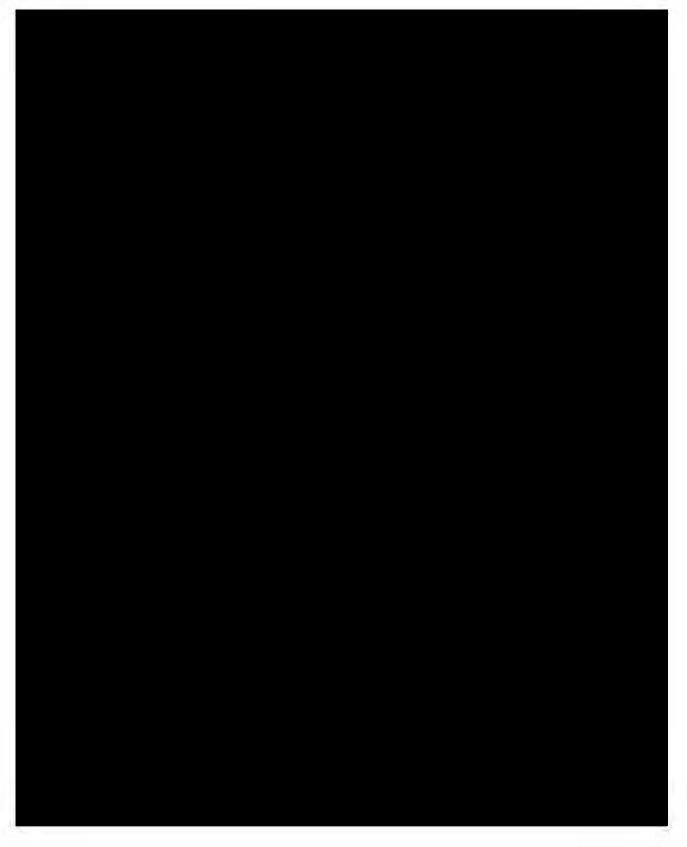












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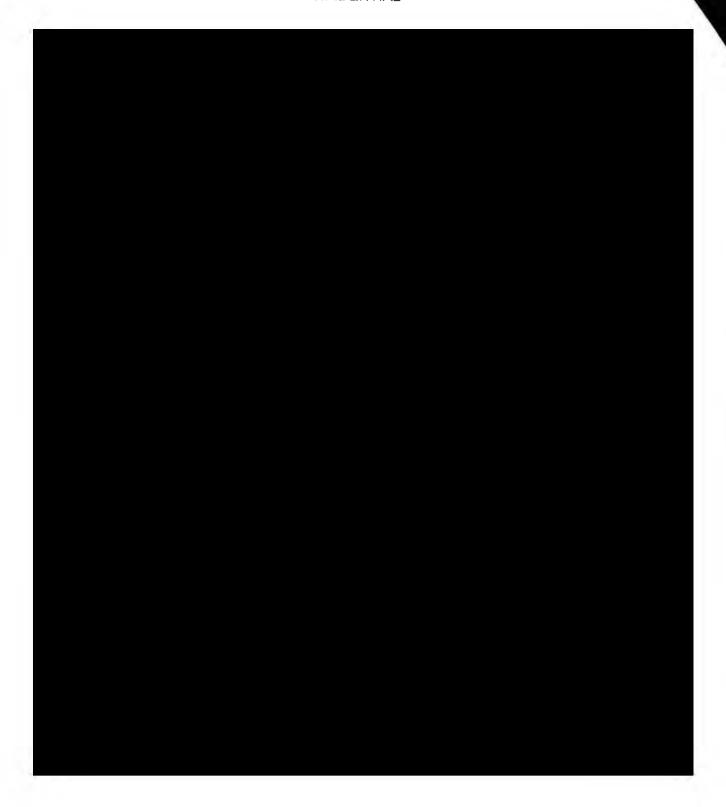
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Executed on: October 4, 2018
Parkland, Florida

Ву:

Alan S. Willner



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Alan Willner · 3rd

CEO at Pirate Republic Brewing Company

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Highlights

Reach out to Alan for...

Advising companies, Mentoring, Joining a nonprofit board.

Message Alan

About

A visionary leader with Sales, Marketing and General Management experience. Have demonstrated positive results in large, small, turnaround, and startup environments in diverse product categories.

Able to transition quickly and have driven shareholder value across multiple product categories and verticals. A high energy, versatile, creative and values-based executive who has consistently BUILT, GROWN, and FIXED businesses.

My CPG career has helped me garner an outstanding understanding of CPG disciplines with strong commercial experience in sales, consumer marketing, customer marketing and general management.

Moreover have managed geography's, key/national accounts, channels, distributors, category management, trade marketing and sales planning. Also have experience developing budgets, managing P&L's, building portfolio strategy, brand strategy, brand plans, innovation and new product development, promotions, strategic alliances, experiential platforms and social and digital strategy and plans,

My professional style is to build high performance teams by positively influencing, empowering and developing talent.

I possess expertise in the following areas:

- ►A business builder who unlocks new sources of revenue organically and through innovation
- ► Generates revenue and increases EBITDA margins
- ►Able to transfer skills and experience across diverse business verticals and categories
- ► Disciplined, fundamentally strong and process oriented
- -Skilled in developing strategic plans and coaching /facilitating best in class planning processes ► Able to harness company legacy while constructively challenging conventions
- ► Develops high performing teams and grows capabilities of individuals
- A pragmatic, approachable and inspiring leader
- ► Social/digital and experiential expertise
- ► Experienced in developing budgets and managing P&L's
- Leadership team and board experience

Experience



Chief Executive Officer

Pirate Republic Brewing Company Oct 2018 - Present · 1 vi 3 mos

https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanwillner/

RESPONDENT'S EXHIBIT 39 Cancellation No. 92025859 Empresa Cubana del Tabaco, d.b.a Cubatabaco General Cigar Co., Inc. et al.





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Our brewery is located in a 130-year-old renovated historic building across from the port of Nassau. We sell our craft beer throughout the Bahamas and we have two tap rooms, one at our brewery and one in Marina Village at Atlantis.

We like to say; our beer is brewed by pirates for pirates! It's about living life on your own terms, take no quarter and give no quarter.

We are expanding throughout the Bahamas and soon will be introducing our amazing beers to the US market.



Vice President Marketing, Interim President & President Club Macanudo

General Cigar 2011 – 2017 + 6 yrs Glen Allen, VA

General Cigar is a division of the Scandinavian Tobacco Group and the largest manufacturer and marketer of premium hand rolled cigars in the US.

Appointed Interim President from November 2015 through March 2016.

Recruited to strengthen and build a consumer centric marketing department, drive change, fuel innovation and product development and lead the creation of a more compelling and aggressive business strategy.

Led all aspects of the most prestigious luxury cigar lounge in the US, Club Macanudo NYC. Member of the executive management team and selected by corporate HQ in Copenhagen, Denmark to lead strategy training and development for key employees in all North American Companies.

see less



President & CEO

Starr Hill Brewery 2006 - 2011 - 5 yrs Charlottesville, VA

Was brought on by a private investor and Anheuser Busch to lead this startup brewery.

Starr Hill is an award-winning craft brewery located in Charlottesville, Virginia. Their brews have been awarded 22 Great American beer Festival medals making it one of the more awarded craft brewers in the Mid Atlantic.

During my tenure Starr Hill grew from a startup selling 500 barrels to selling 25,000 barrels in 9 states becoming one of the fastest growing craft breweries in the US.

As its President and CEO had led development of the culture, business strategy, execution, and management of financial results.

see less



Vice President, Marketing

Pabst Brewing Company 2002 – 2005 – 3 yrs San Antonio, TX

Recruited to Pabst the 4th largest Brewer of beer in the U.S from Diageo to lead the turnaround and development of the marketing department and its portfolio of legendary beer brands. During my tenure successfully moved the company from a sales oriented to a customer and consumer centric company culture.

Critical to meeting consumer and customer needs my team and I created the portfolio and brand strategies that aligned to the local market, consumers and their needs.

While many agencies take credit for the phenomenal success of the PBR brand, it was this team that garnered the insights and developed the plan that resulted in PBR becoming the 2nd fastest growing domestic beer in the U.S for 3 consecutive years.

see less



Vice President, Customer Marketing

Diageo 2000 – 2002 · 2 yıs Miami, FL

Diageo is a global leader in beverage alcohol with iconic brands in spirits, beer and wine.

Initially as the VP Business Capabilities, reporting the President I led people assessment ensuring we had the right capabilities, experience and softer skills to fuel success against our aggressive





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As the VP Marketing, I had responsibility for leading the brand, trade and customer marketing functions. Built the operating plan, channel strategy, media plan, and pricing and promotional campaigns. I supervised a team of 30, Managed a \$55M budget producing \$370M in sales and \$96M in profit.

see less

(MilerCons

Director, On-Premise Marketing

MillerCoors 1996 – 2000 = 4 yrs Chicago, IL and Golden, Co

Recruited by Coors The 3rd largest brewer in the U.S from Nabisco. Initially led Field Marketing in Chicago for the Midwest region.

After a year as the Field Marketing Director was Promoted to the Director, National Field Marketing. This was a newly created headquarter position in Golden, Colorado that focused on building alignment between sales and marketing initiatives and priorities. In this role, created a planning process that aligned corporate marketing and field sales. Served as a key member of National promotion committee.

After a successful campaign as the national Field Marketing Director was promoted again to lead Marketing nationally for the on-premise trade channel.

see less

Director, Business Development

Nabisco Biscuit Company 1992 – 1996 - 4 yrs Chicago, IL

Joined Nabisco the largest Cookie and Cracker Snack Company in the World as the District Sales Manager for the Illinois market. Had responsibility for 130 direct sales people and \$125M in sales.

Within a year was promoted to the Regional Marketing Manager responsible for all aspects of field marketing for 10 Midwestern states.

Was promoted again to Director of Business Development where I held the second most senior role in the region and shared leadership of a \$650M business. Created the annual, quarterly and monthly plans, created sales goals and managed the performance of 8 divisions. Also managed the regional P&L, coached account and sales managers in 13 Midwestern states.

Selected to lead process reengineering and category management for 1/3 of the U.S reporting to HQ in East Hanover, NJ.

see less

Show fewer experiences A

Education



Arizona State University Bachelors of Science, Marketing



University of Virginia Darden School of Business Executive Leadership Program

Licenses & Certifications



Facebook Marketing: Advertising LinkedIn Issued Aug 2017 • No Expiration Date See credential





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Recommendations

Received (7) Given (9)

Matt Booth

President Room101 Brand April 12, 2018, Matt worked with Alan but at different companies Alan is true executive material. He is a high caliber individual both on and off the field. Alan has the vision and forward thinking to place himself and those with him ahead of the pack whilst having the core experience necessary to fulfill the executive role.



Daniel McGee General Counsel March 2, 2017, Alan worked with

Daniel in the same group

I had the pleasure of working together with Alan Willner on the executive management team of General Cigar for nearly 5 years. I enjoyed working with Alan because he was not afraid of innovating while at the same time remaining true to the integrity of the brand equities which he and his team oversaw and develope... See more



Ernesto Perez-Carrillo President at EPC Cigars

February 9, 2017, Ernesto worked with Alan but at different companies

I've know Alan for over three years and during that time have admired his hard work ethic and consistent care and follow thru on any project that he has worked on ,he is a true professional who knows how to get things done , Ernesto Perez-Carrillo



Barry Abrams

Associate Publisher at Cigar Aficionado

February 7, 2017, Alan was a client of Barry's

I consider myself fortunate to have worked closely with Alan for past several years when he ran marketing and advertising at General Cigar. Far more than just a partnership, it was always a learning experience for me. His enthusiasm is contagious. He's a marketing pro with a clear vision for the big picture an... See more



Michael 5.

Chief Information Officer at Hussmann

June 8, 2010, Michael worked with Alan but at different companies

I had the pleasure of working with Alan as part of the Executive Board for Starr Hill Brewery. Alan was brought on board to lead an ambitious growth and expansion plan. He quickly established himself as a key ambassador for the brewery while setting the strategic course for the company. An important compo... See more



Tim Jacobi

Managing Director at GIMA International

November 13, 2007, Tim reported directly to Alan

I have worked for Alan both in Miami (Diageo) and San Antonio (Pabst Brewing Company) for roughly 5 years total. Each time I was privileged to be part of his team and learn from his way of thinking, approaching the brand building side of the business with a unique blend of high level strategic thinking and stre... See more



Brad Bridges

Helping to ensure clients investment in their companies and hobbies profitable.

August 22, 2005, Brad reported directly to Alan

Alan is an excellent leader and strategic thinker. He was given the task of building a marketing organization from the ground up. Pabst Brewing Company had historically been a company driven by the field sales organization but under Alan's leadership was turned into a consumer driven marketing organization in 2 short years.

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Interests



Douglas Conant in











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Craft Brewing Industry 42,994 members



Harvard Business Review 8,644,419 followers

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

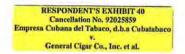
In the matter of Trademark Registration No. 1147309 For the mark COHIBA Date registered: February 17, 1981

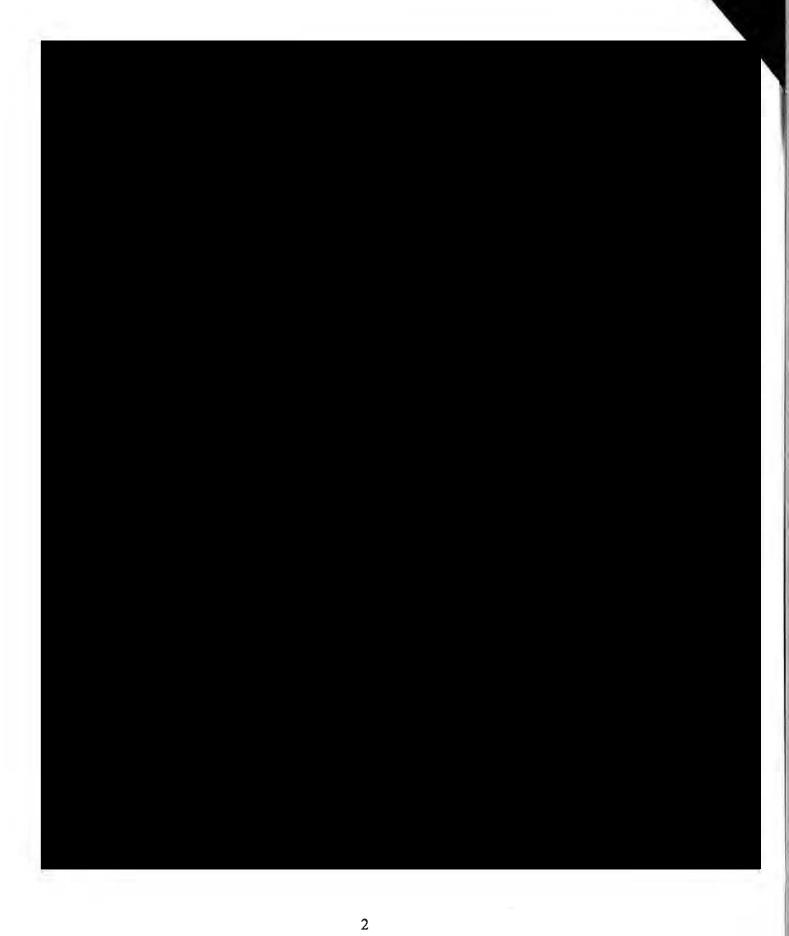
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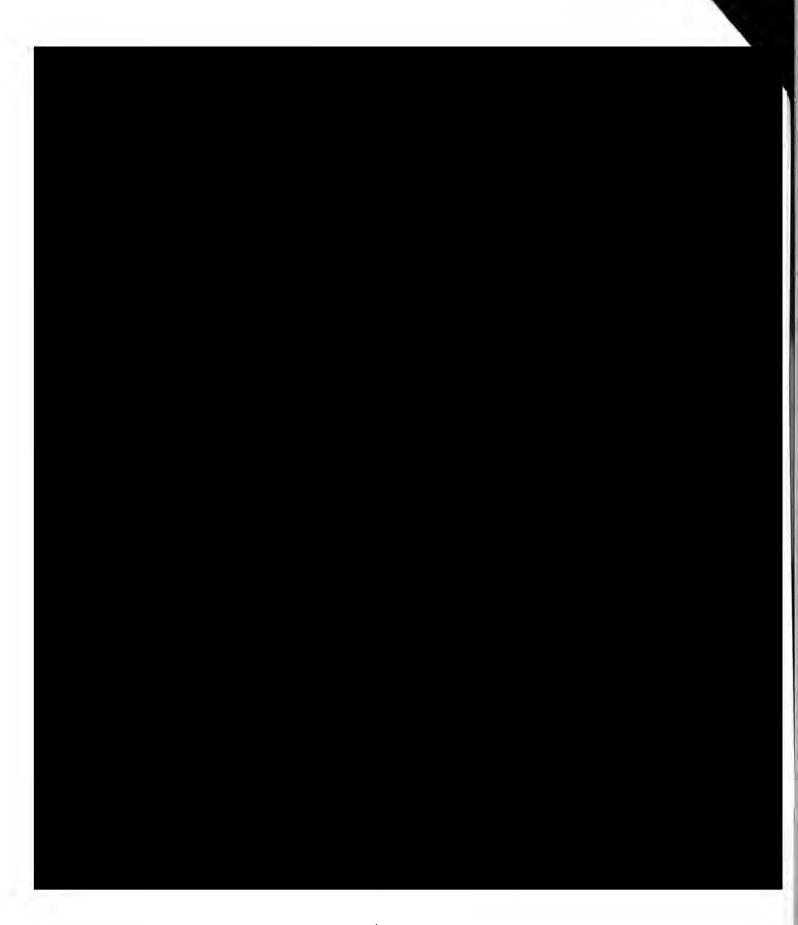


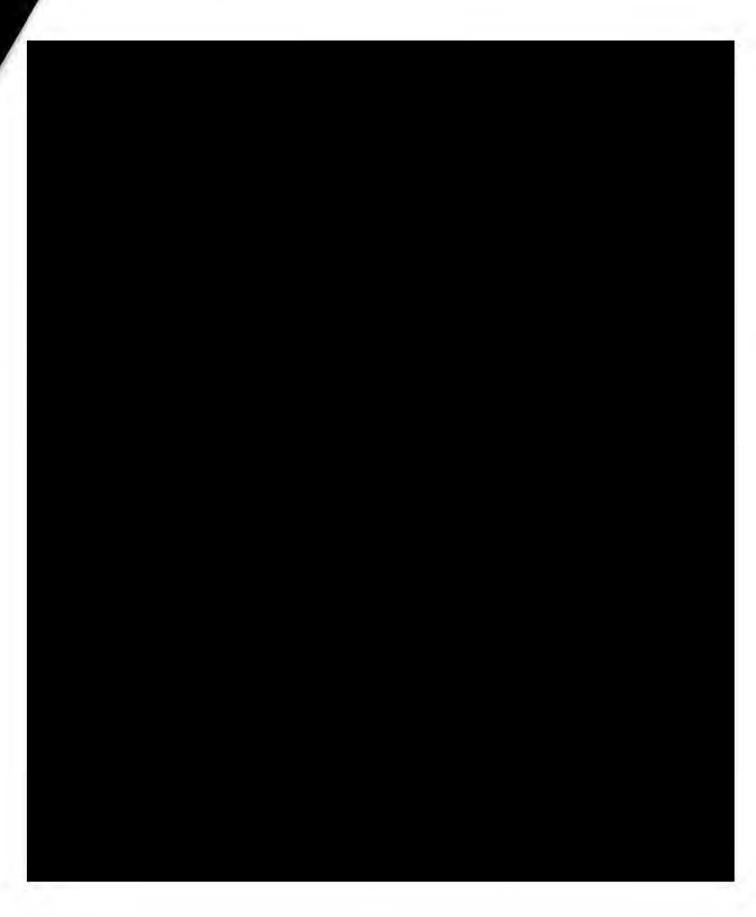




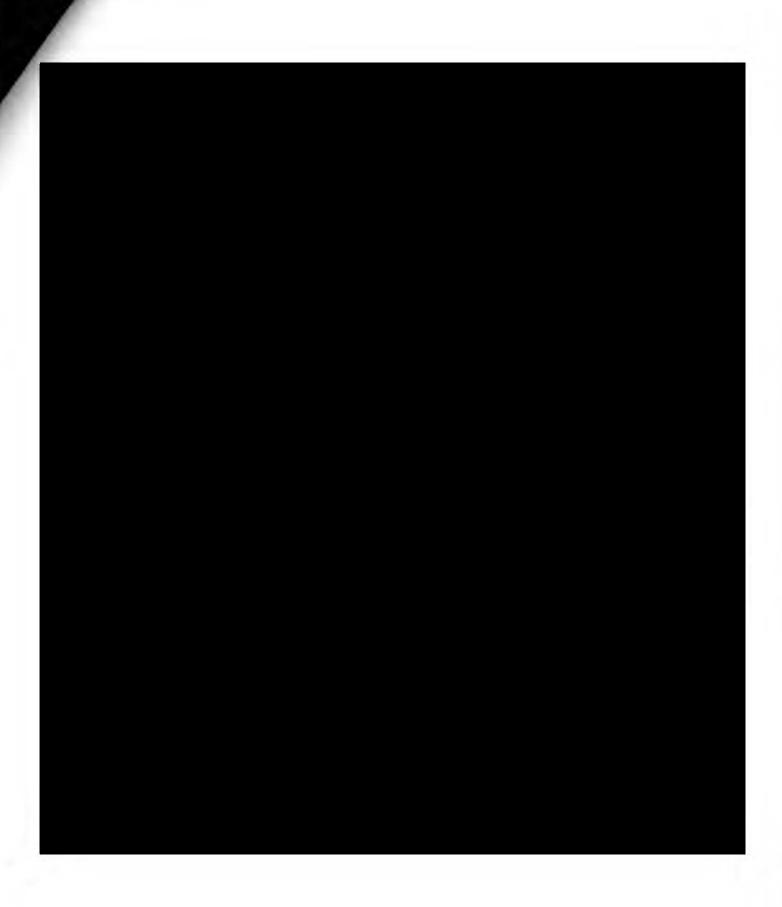
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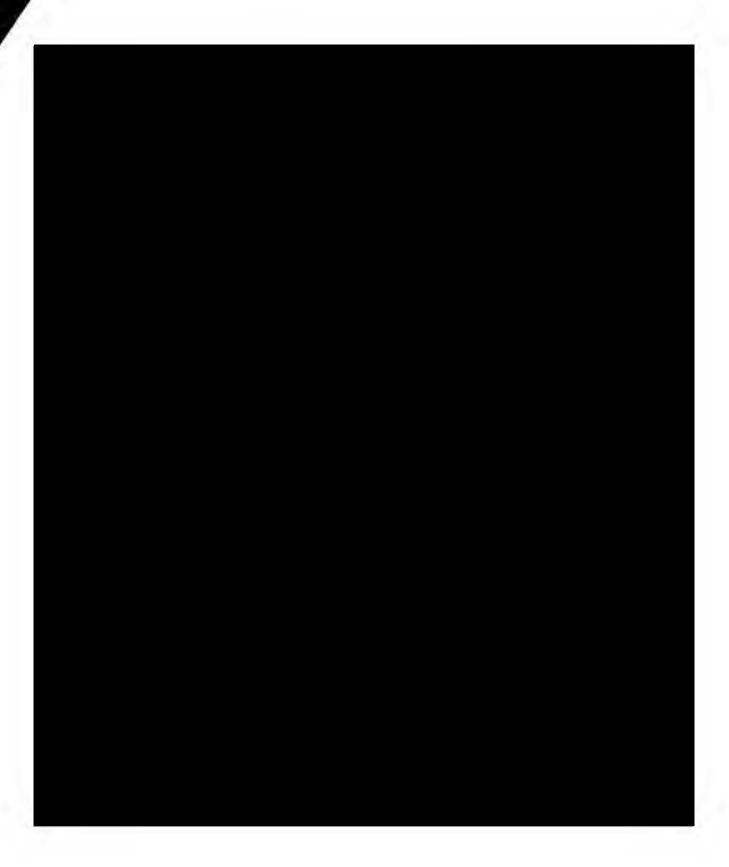


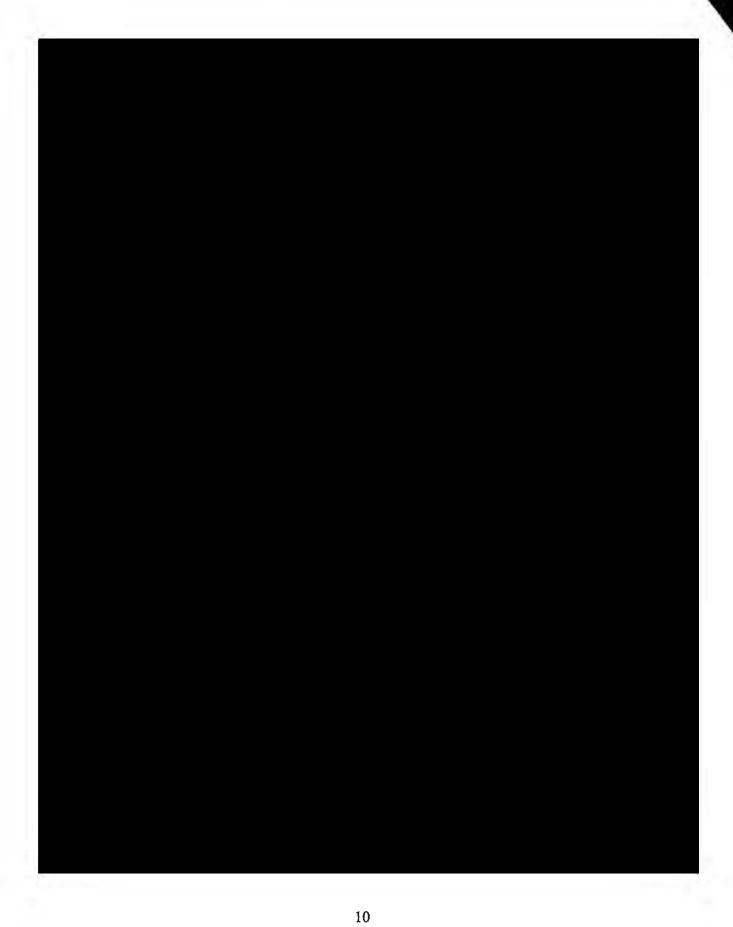






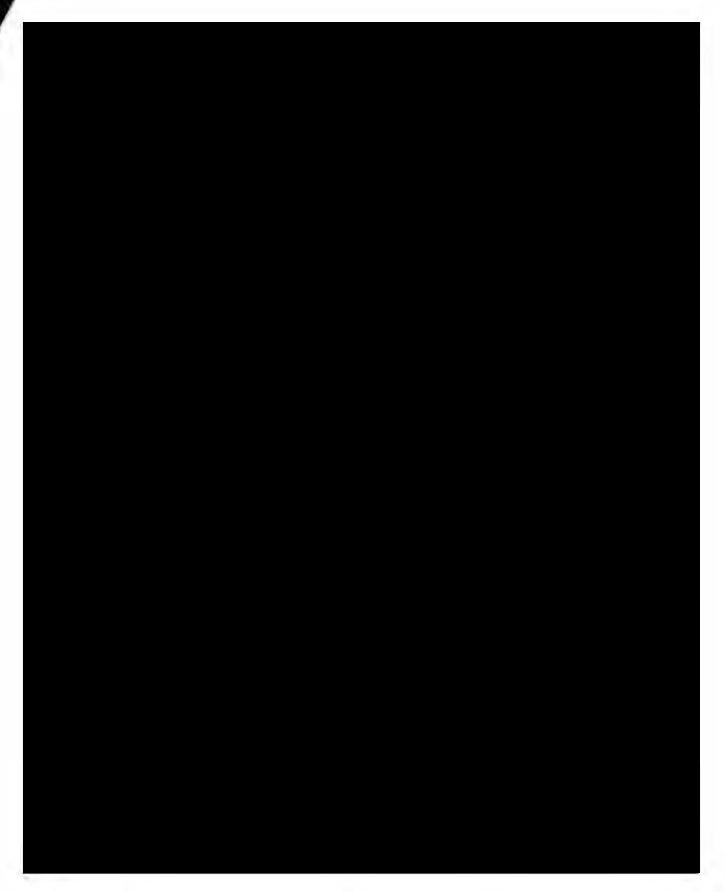














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Executed on: September ____, 2018 Parkland, Florida

Ву:_____

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AND

In the matter of the Trademark Registration No. 1898273
For the mark COHIBA
Date registered: June 6, 1995

EMPRESA CUBANA DEL TABACO, d.b.a.
CUBATABACO,

Petitioner,

V.

GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC. and CULBRO
CORP.

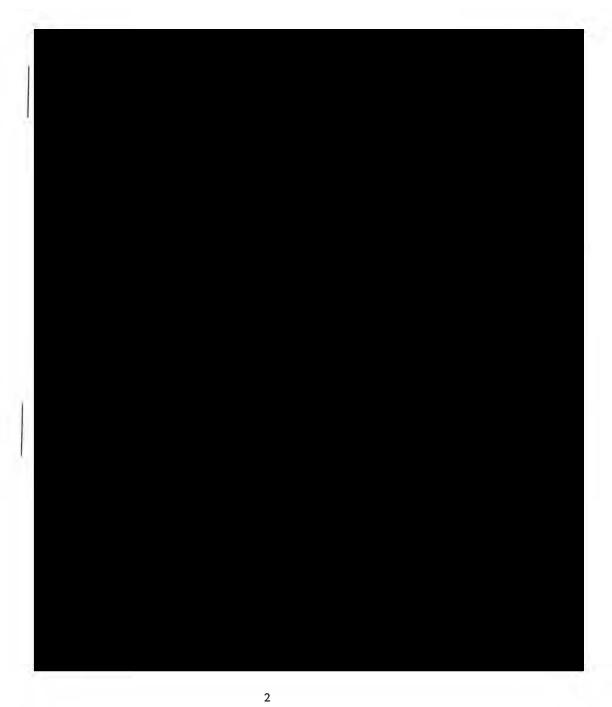
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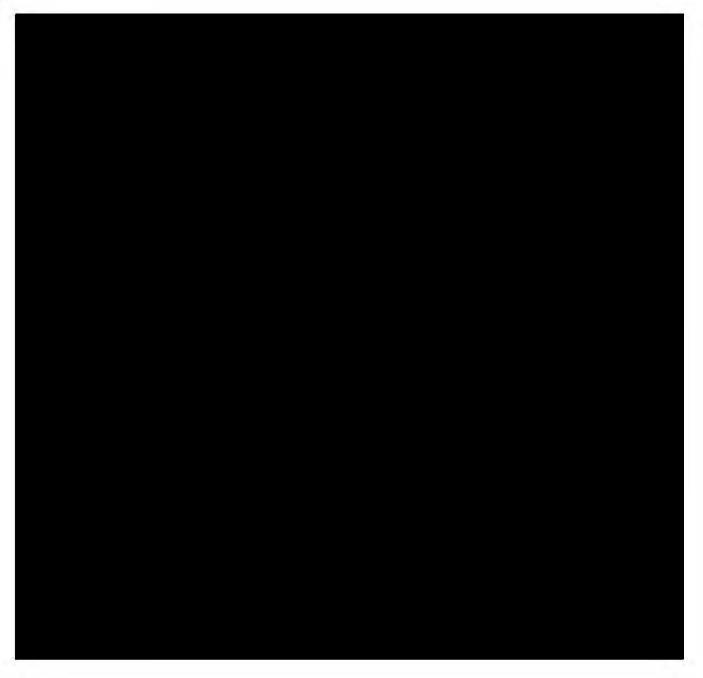




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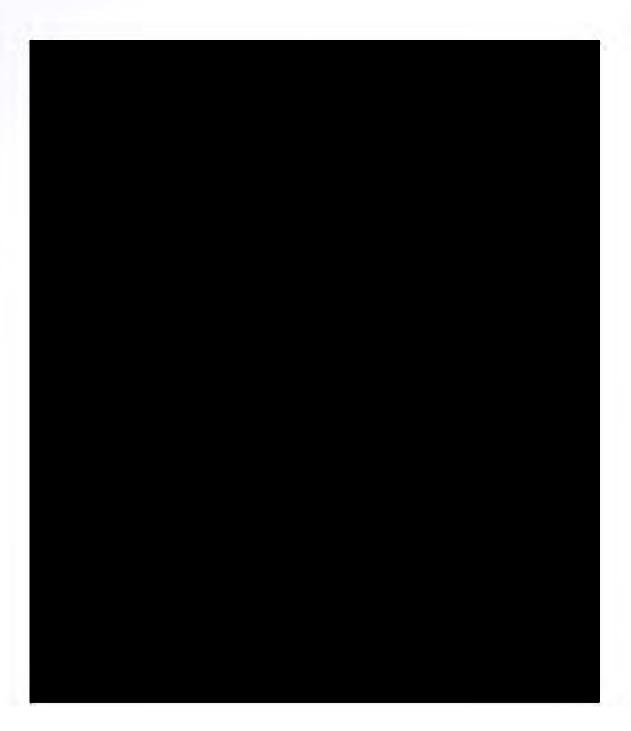










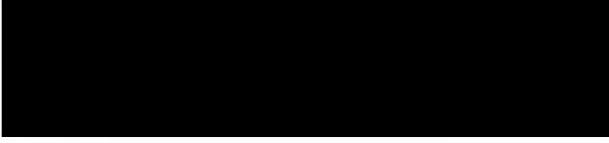




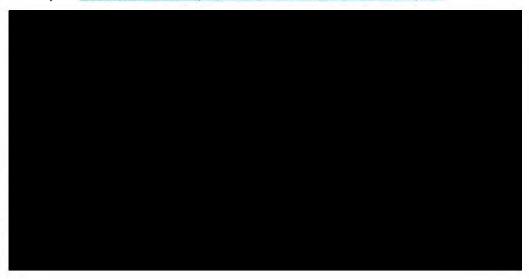








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Executed on: September ____, 2018 Parkland, Florida

By: Alan S Willner

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the matter of Trademark Registration No. 1147309 For the mark COHIBA Date registered: February 17, 1981

AND

In the matter of the Trademark Registration No. 1898273 For the mark COHIBA Date registered: June 6, 1995

EMPRESA CUBANA DEL TABACO, d.b.a. CUBATABACO,

Petitioner,

Cancellation No. 92025859

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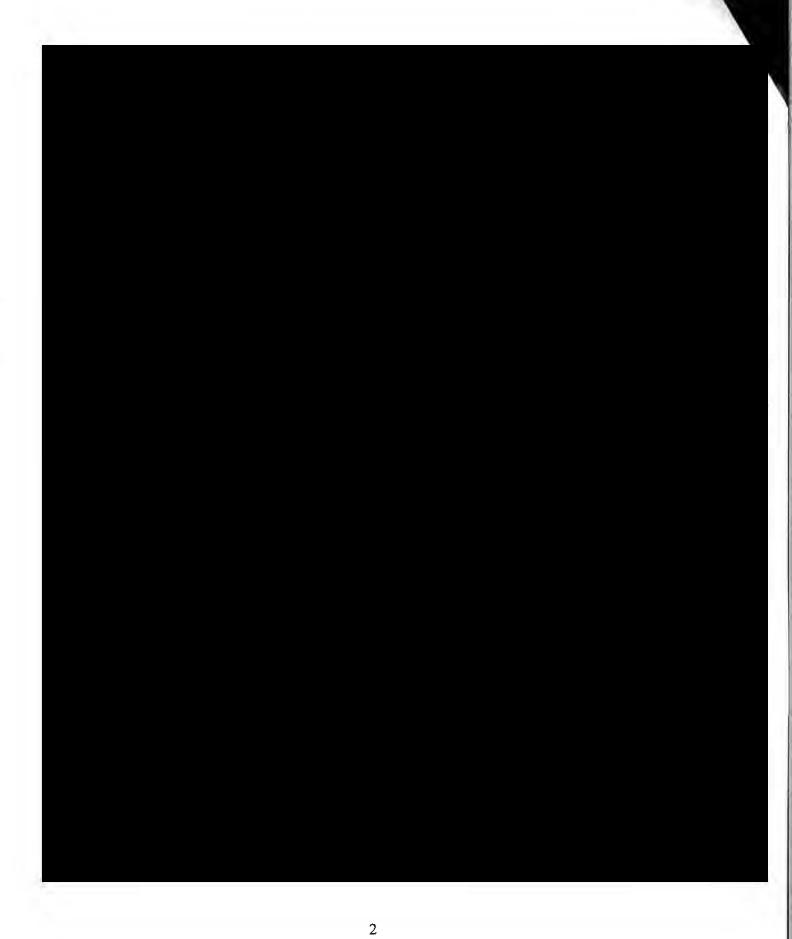
GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC. and CULBRO CORP.

Respondents.

DECLARATION OF ALAN S. WILLNER

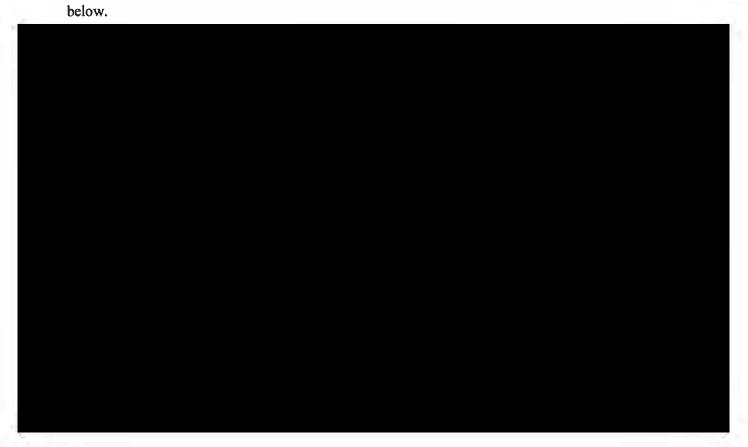
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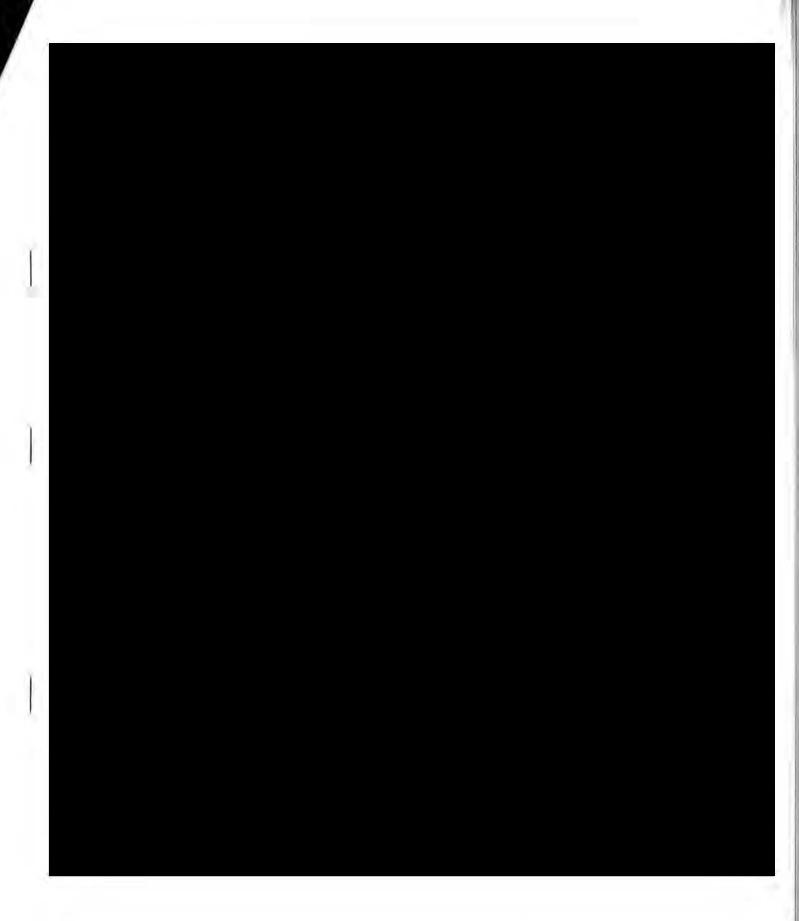
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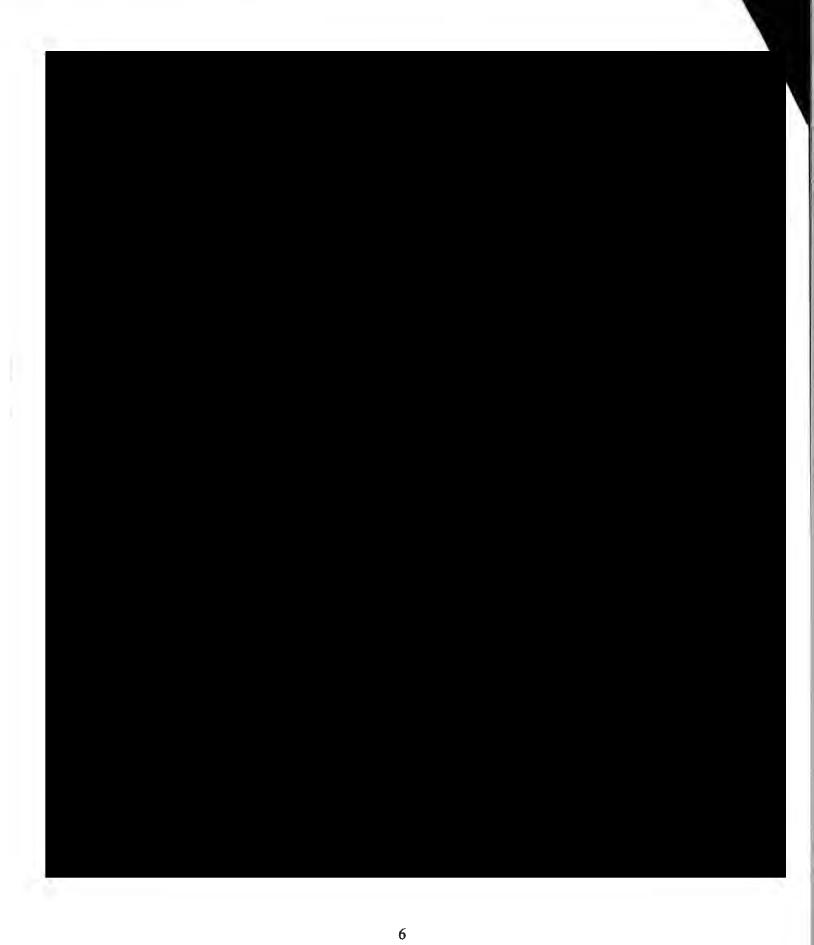


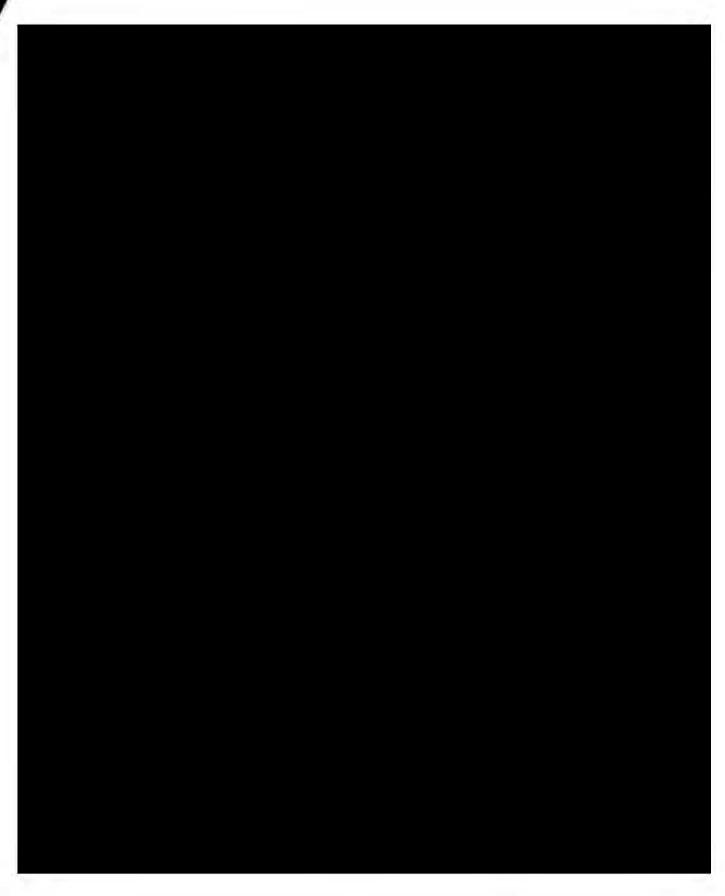


7. I provide more details concerning my professional and educational background

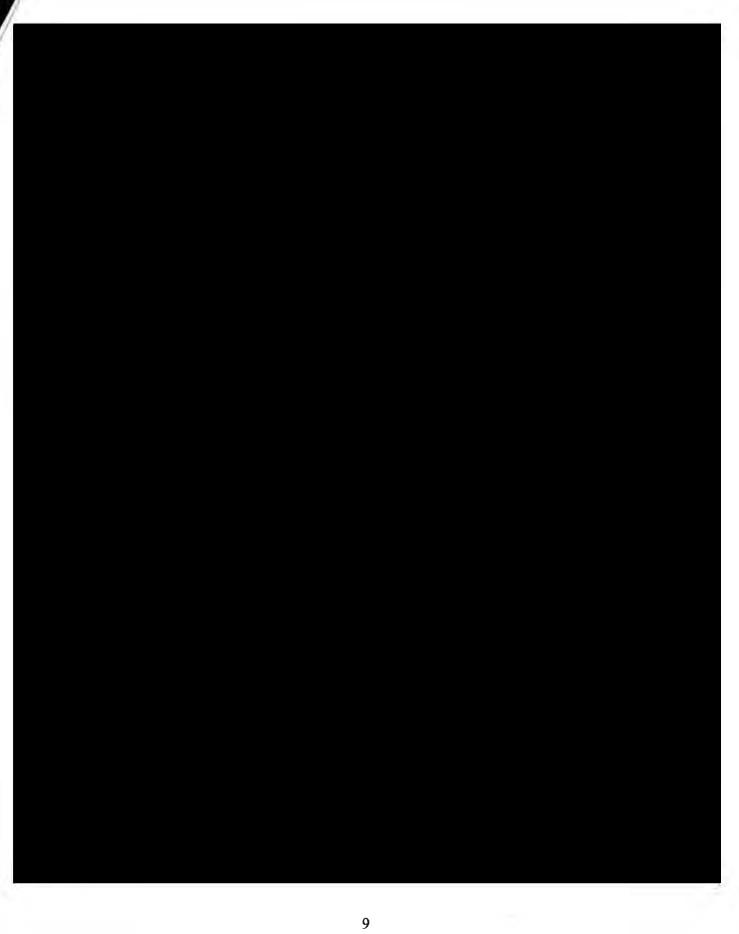


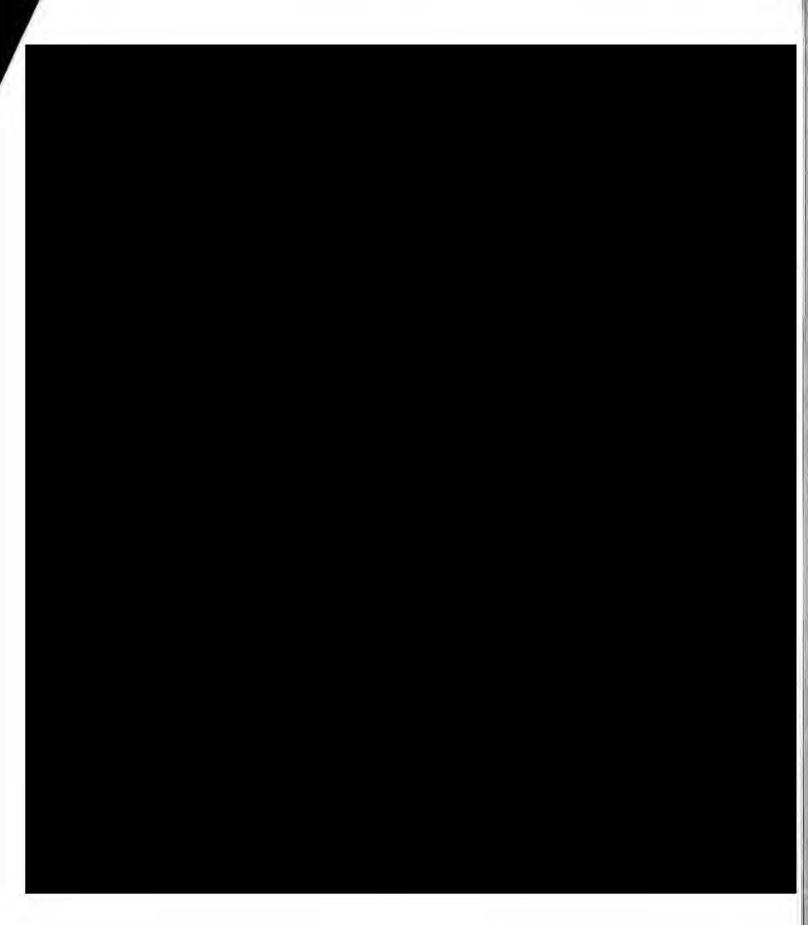


















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Executed on: September ____, 2018
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CORP.		:	
	Dannandanta	:	
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		:	
		X	

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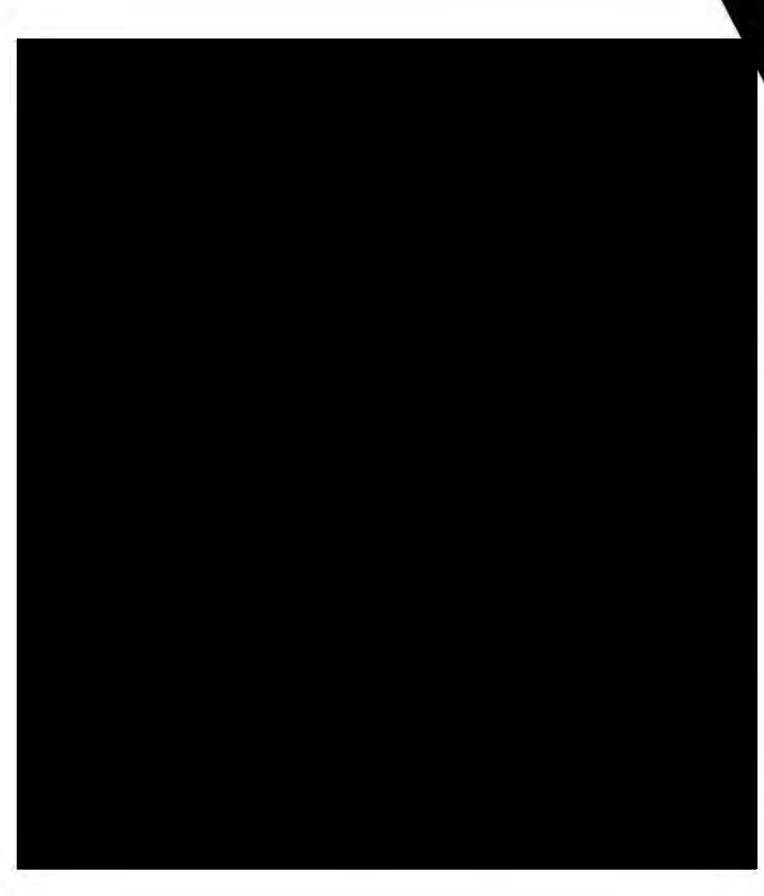
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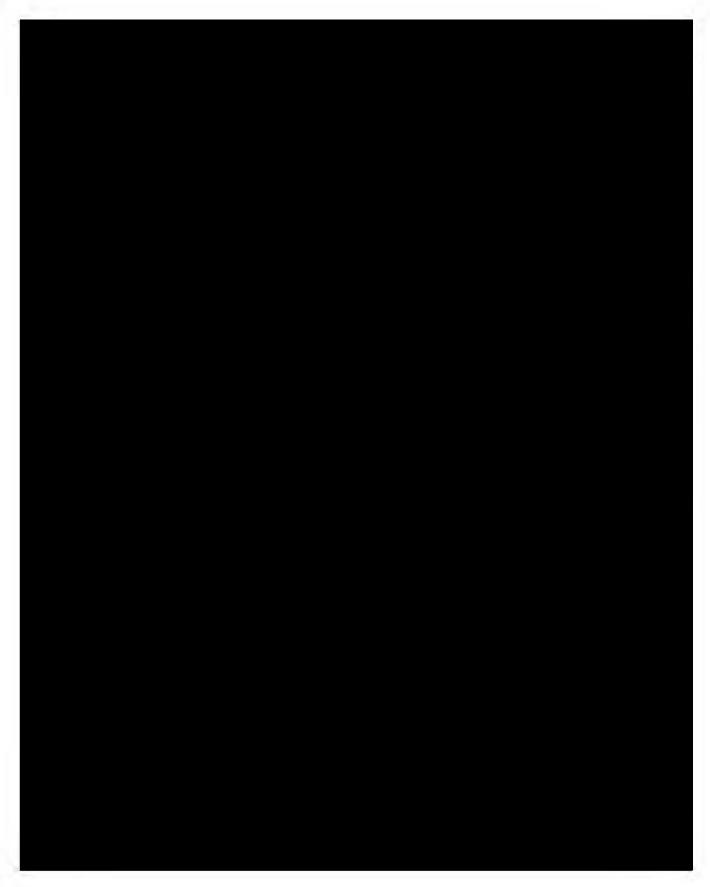
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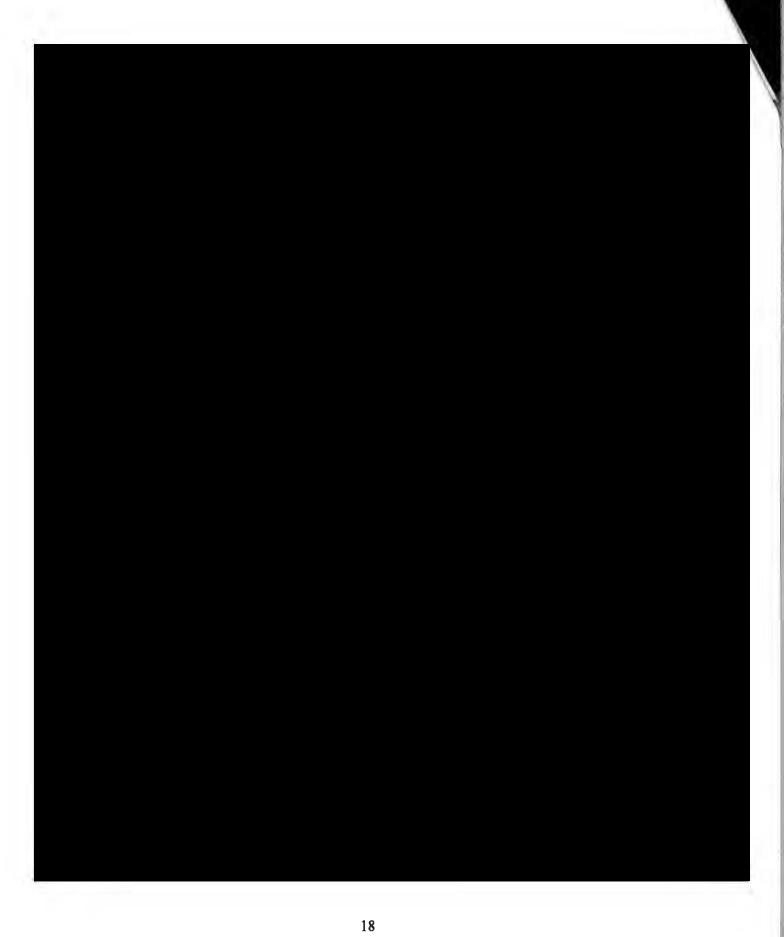
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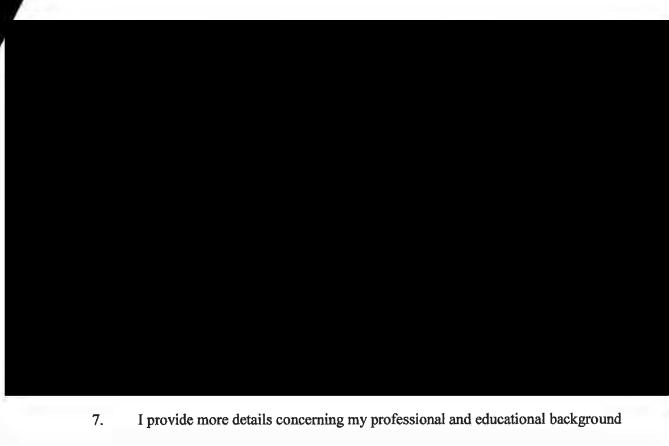
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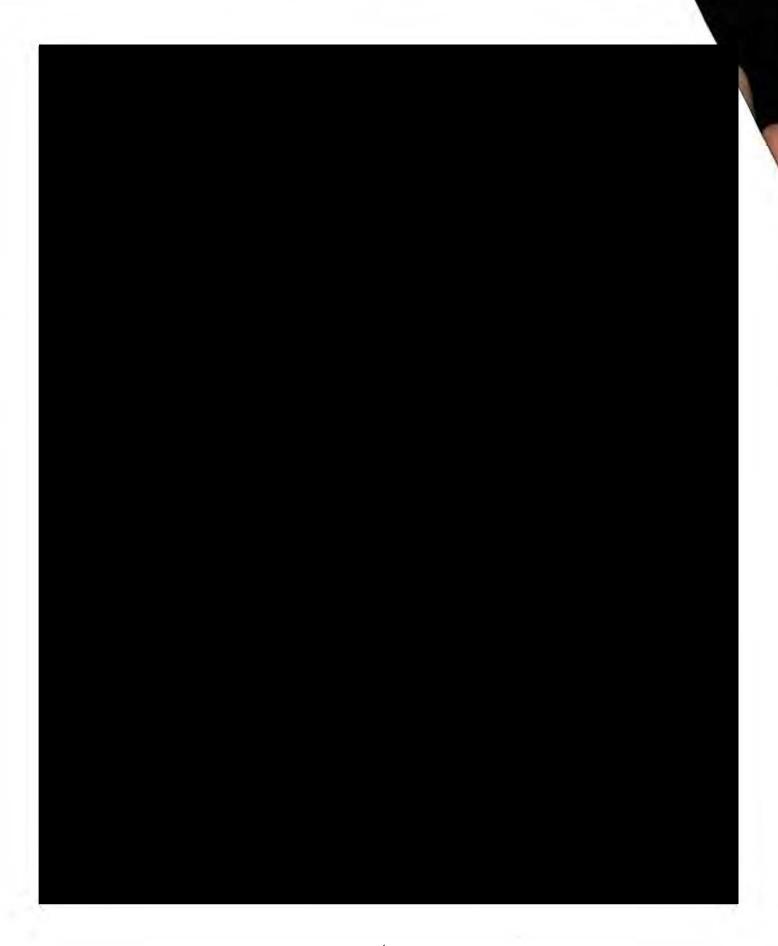
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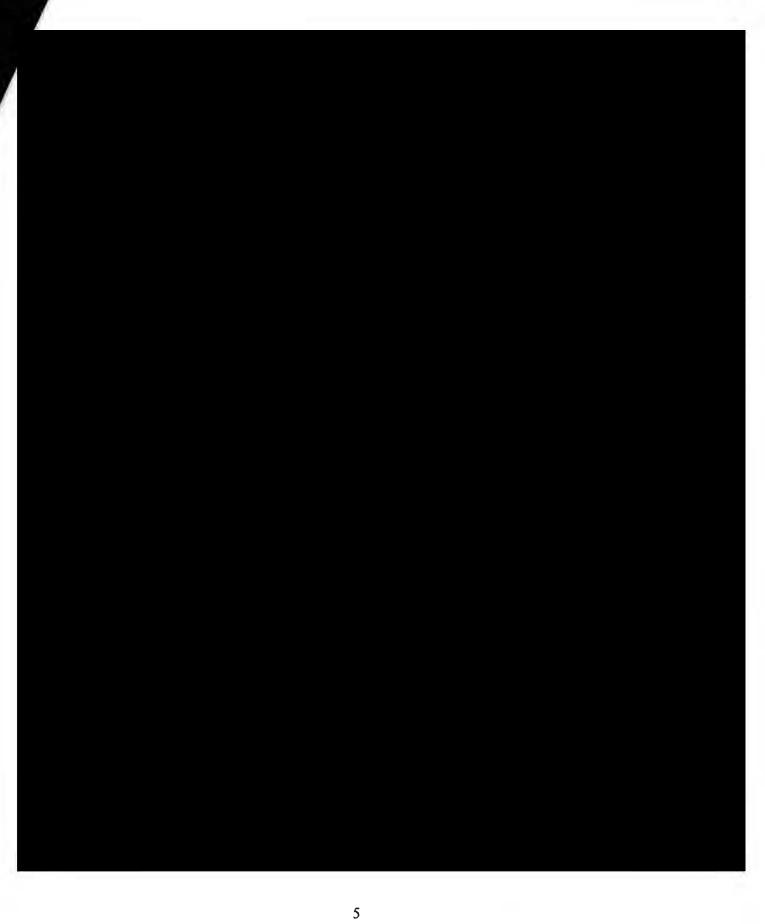
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Cancellation No. 92022889
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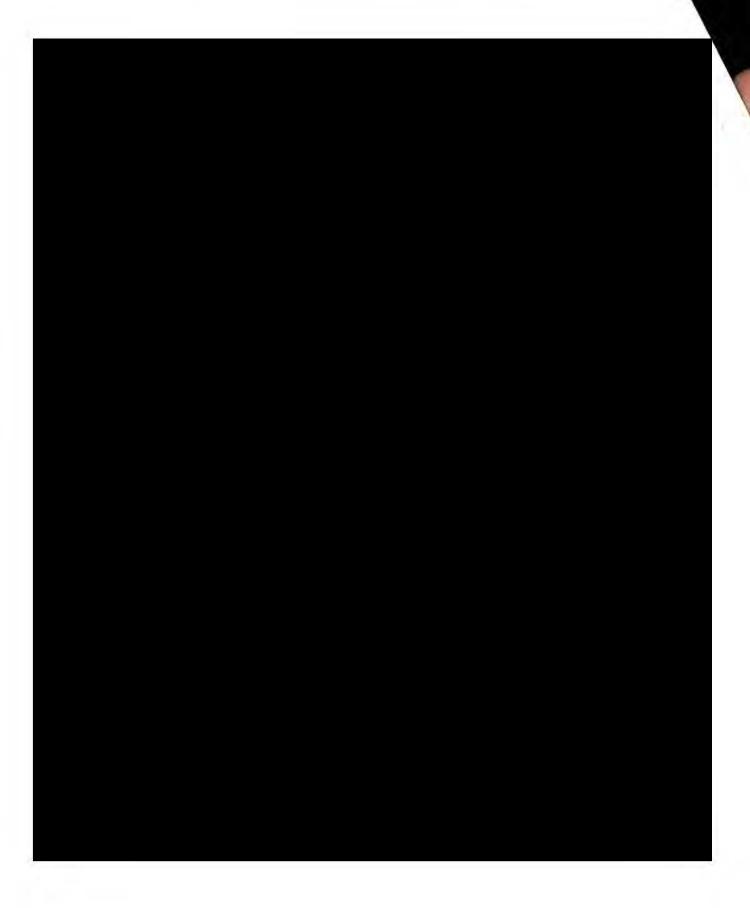


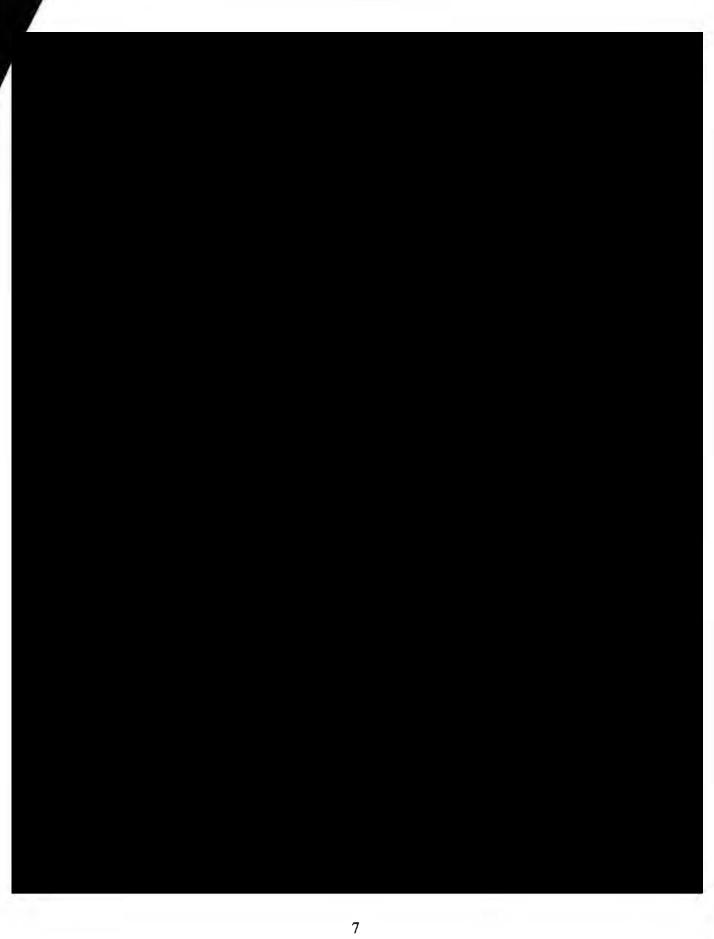
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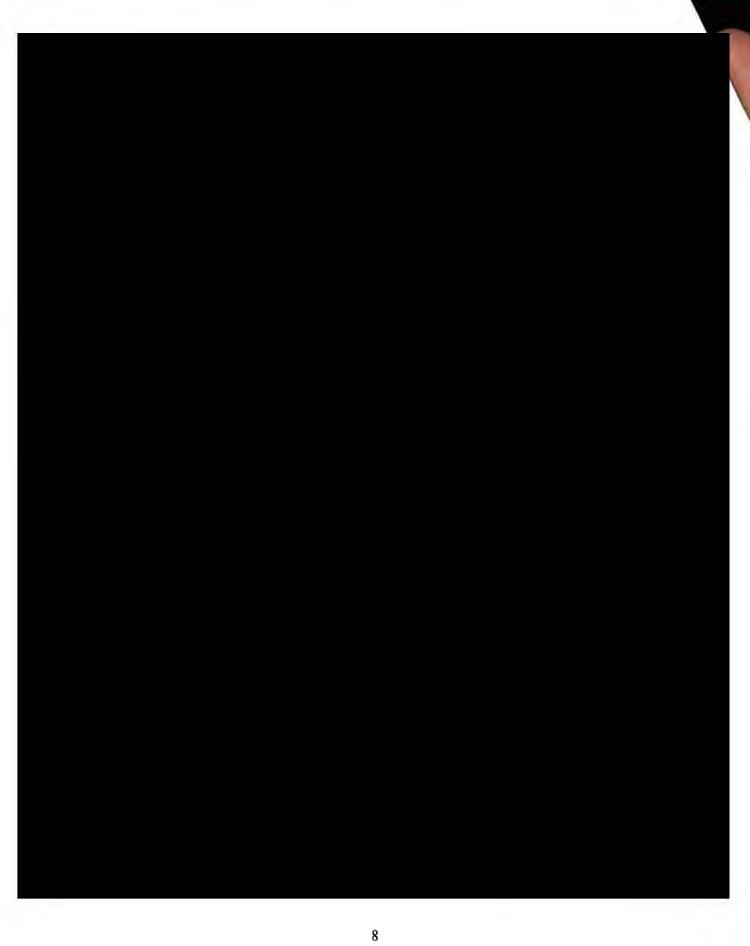




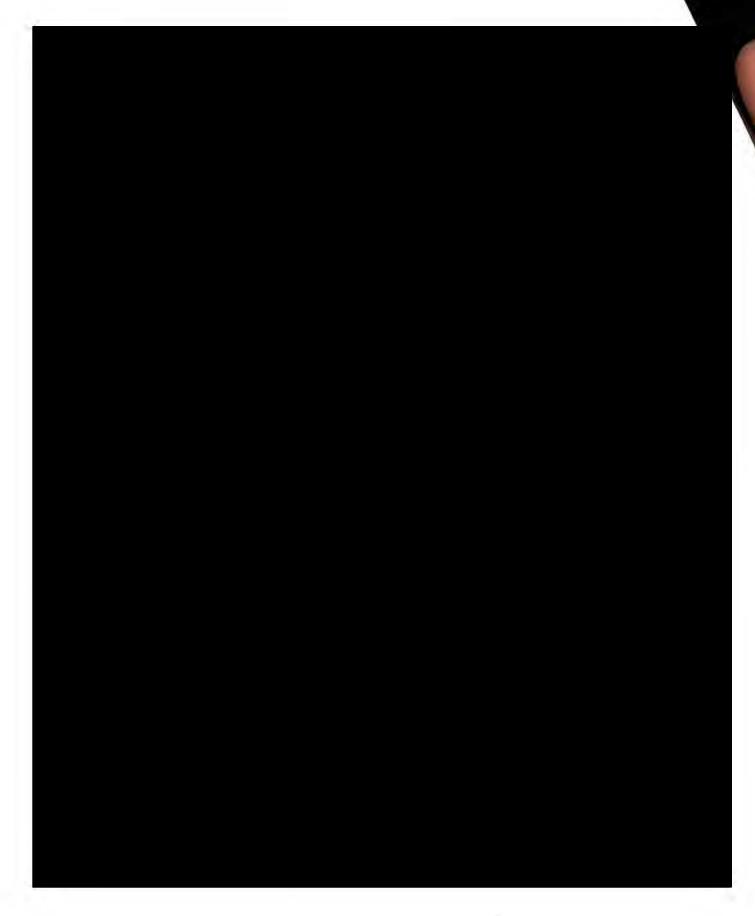


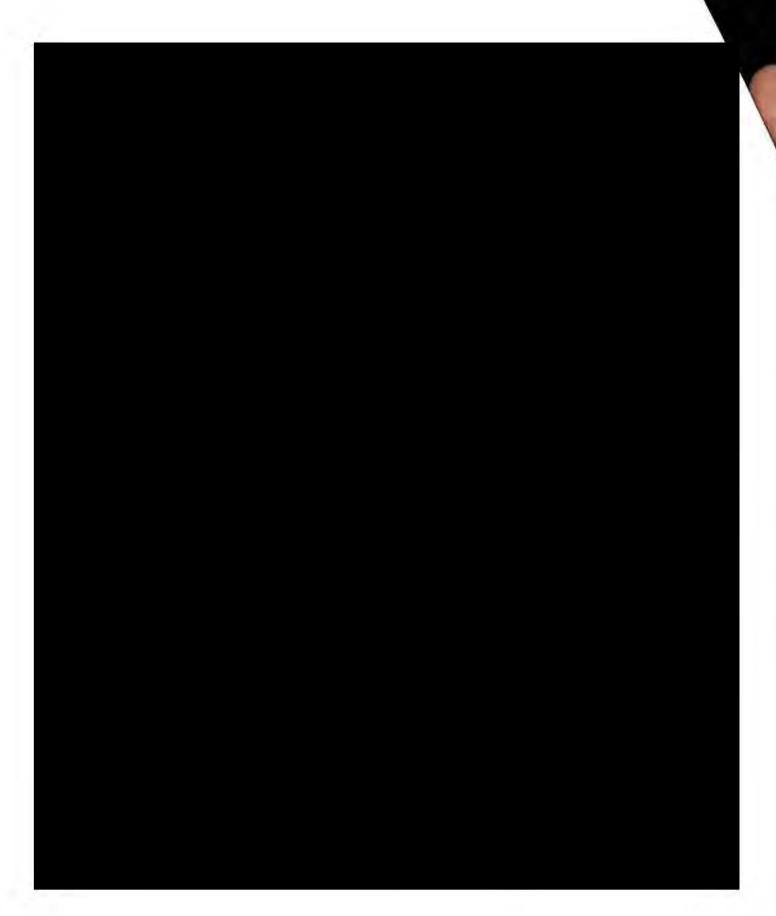


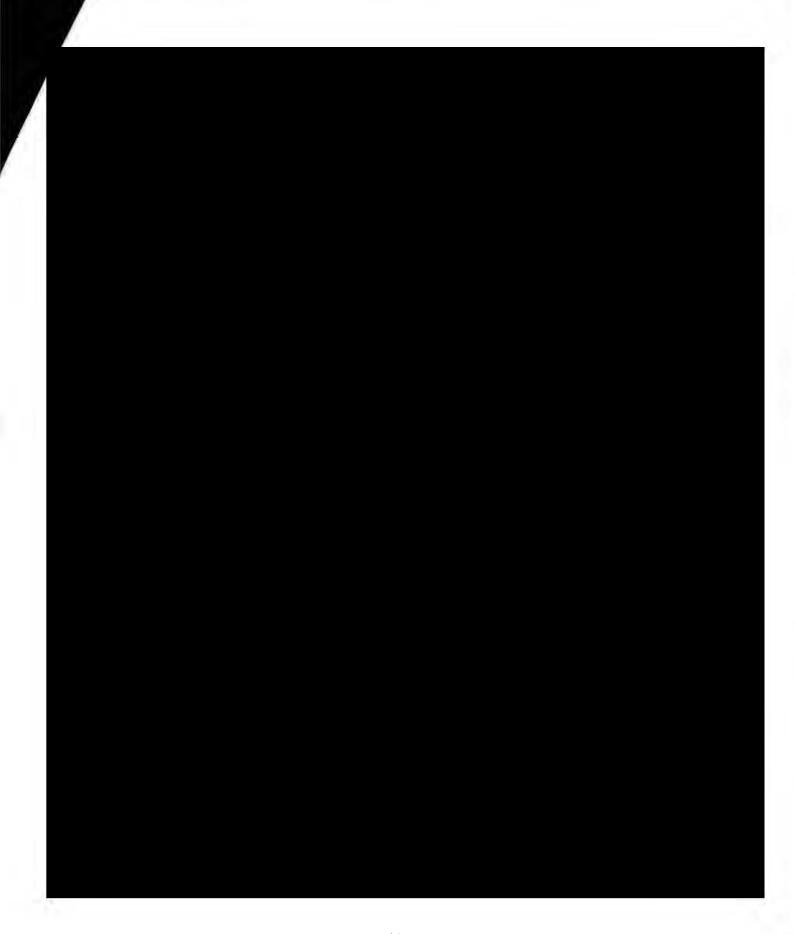














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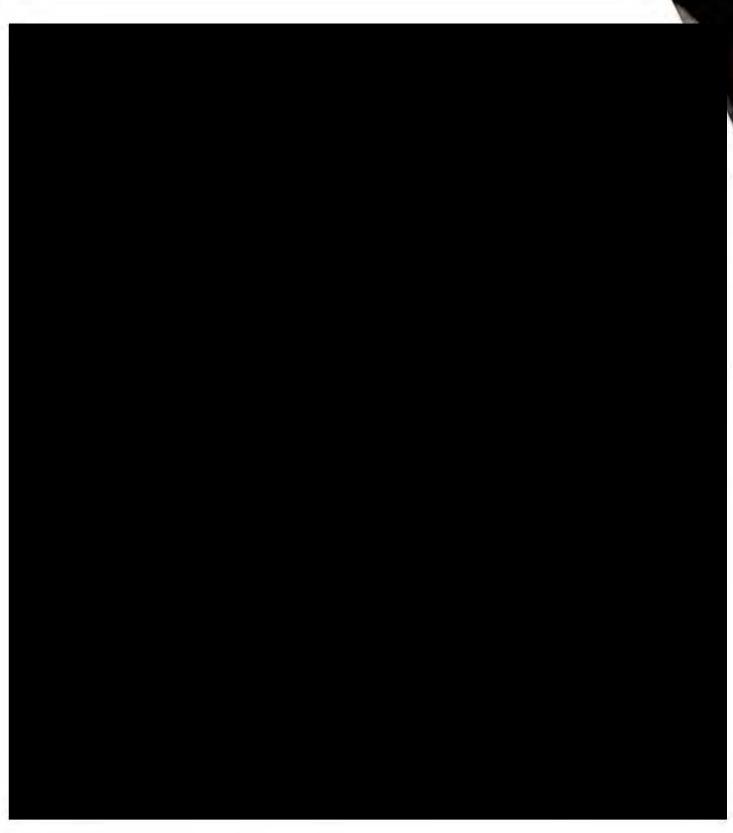
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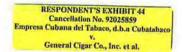
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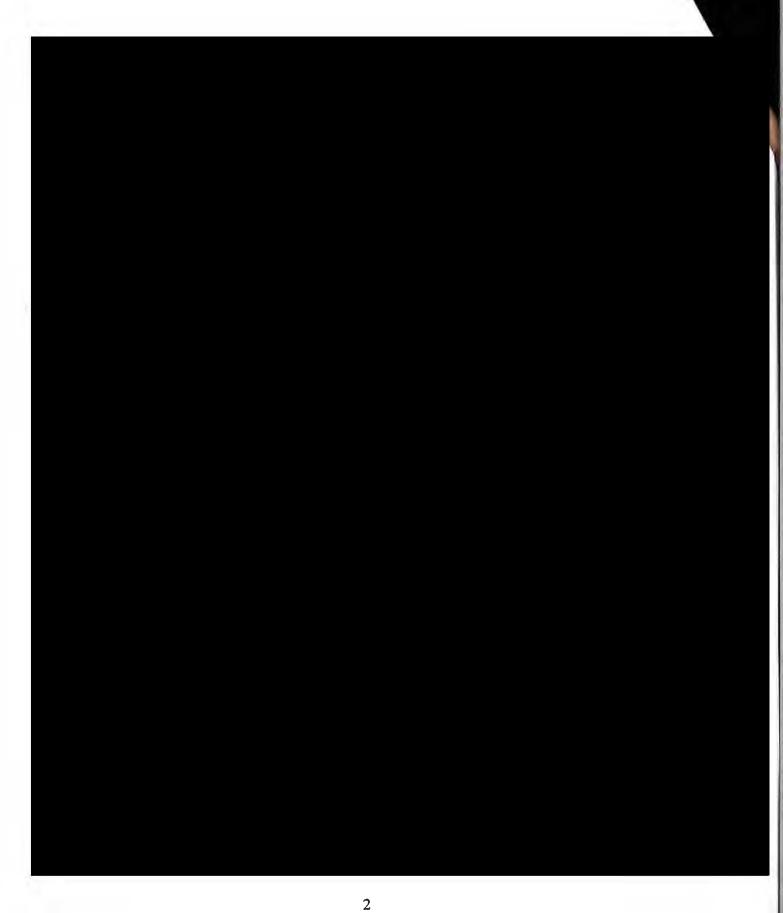
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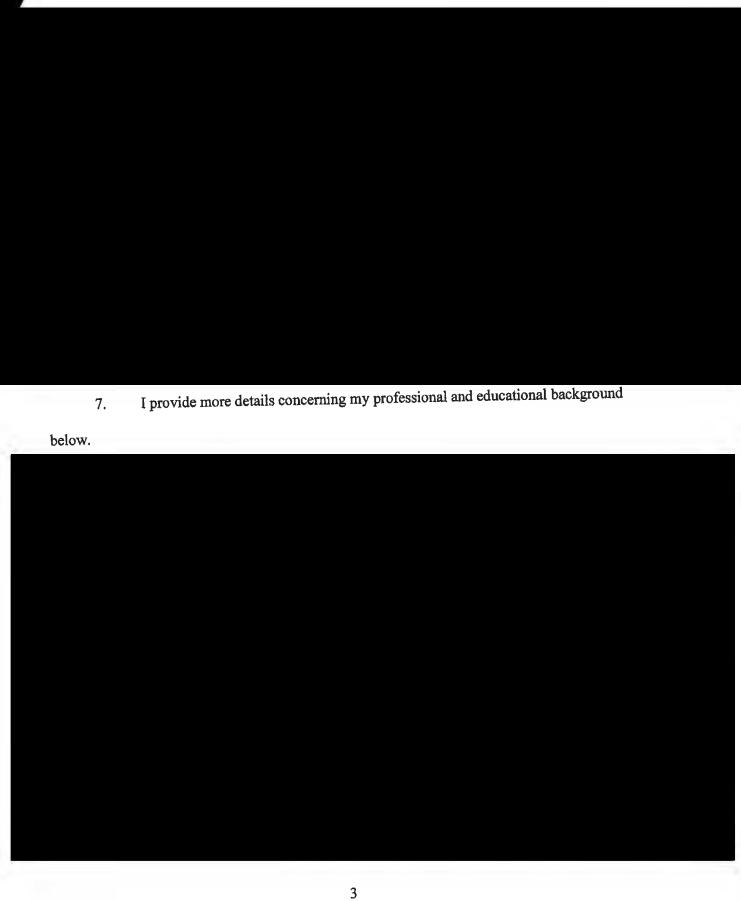
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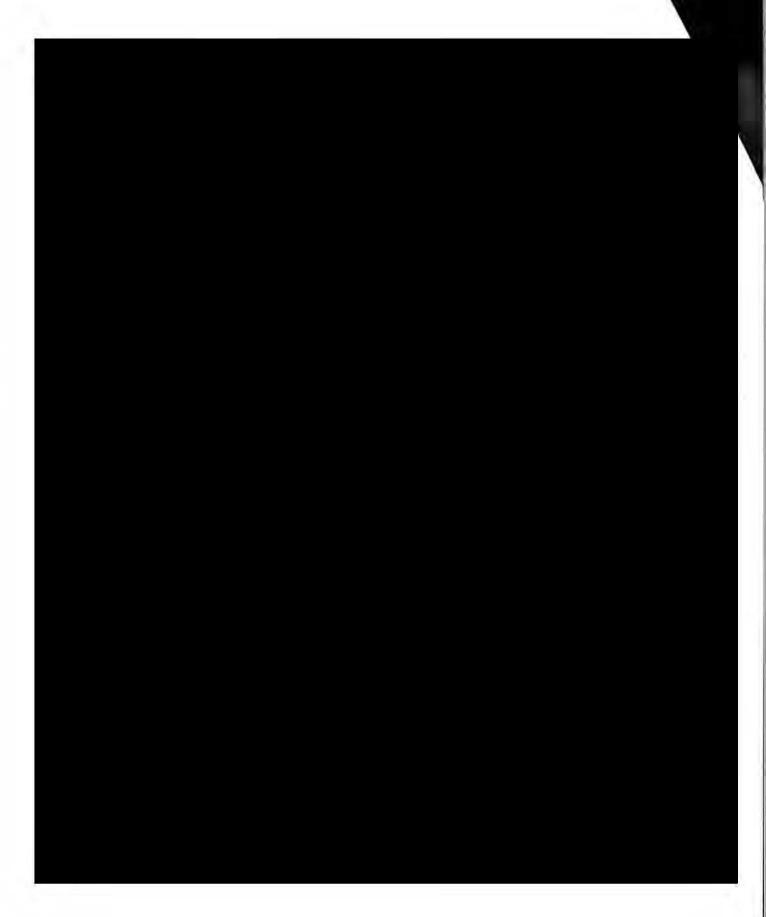
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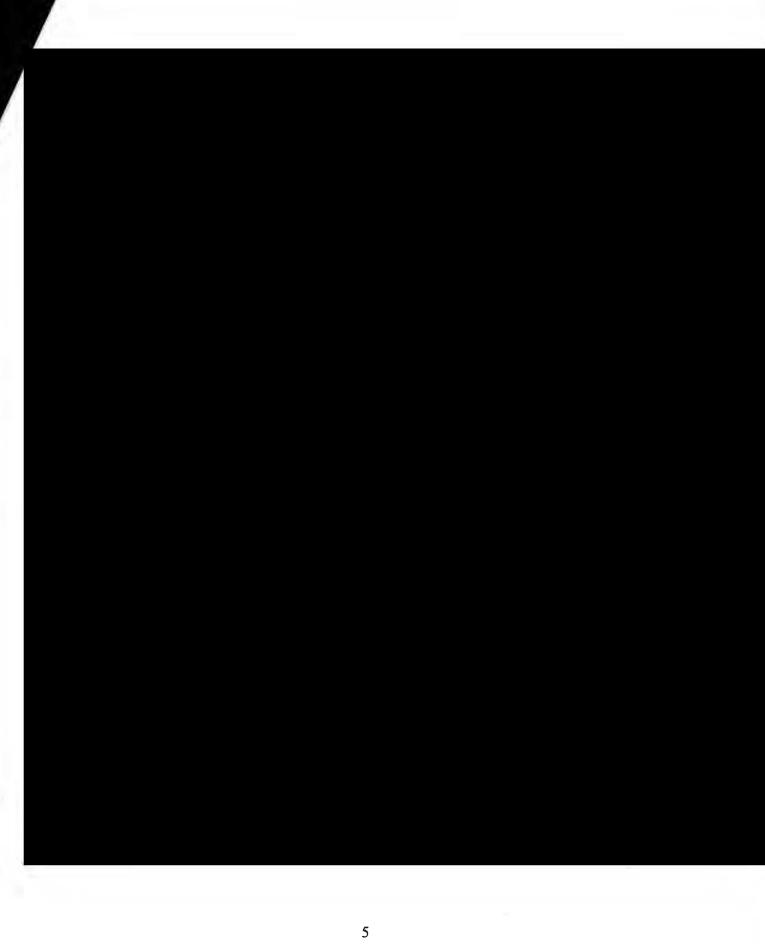
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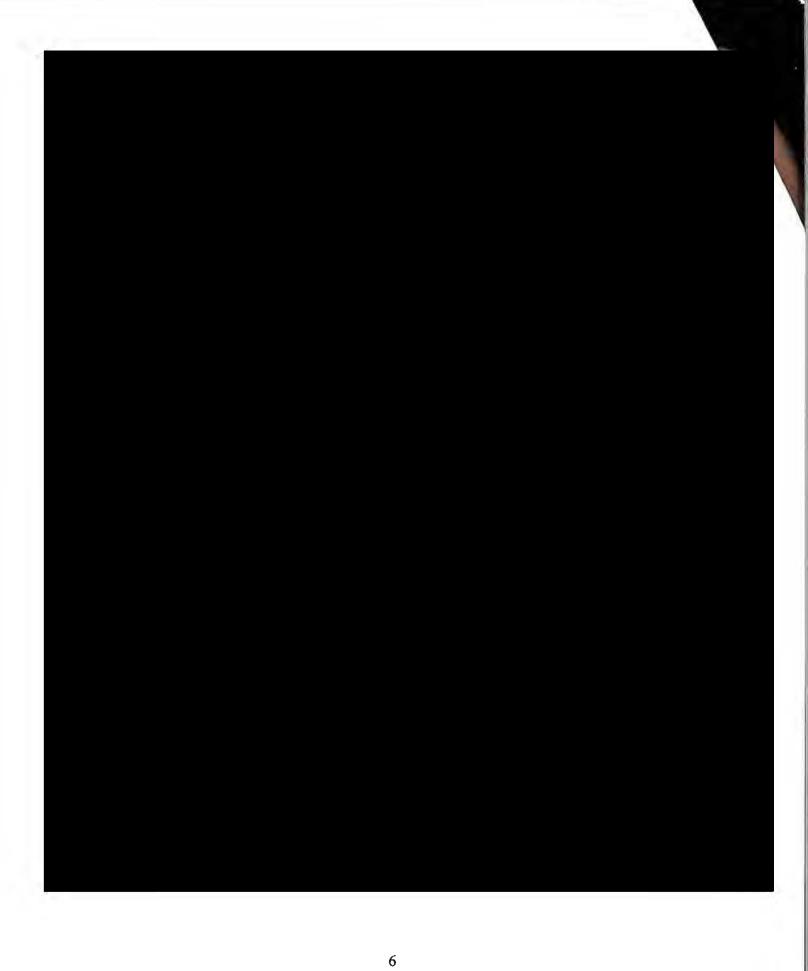




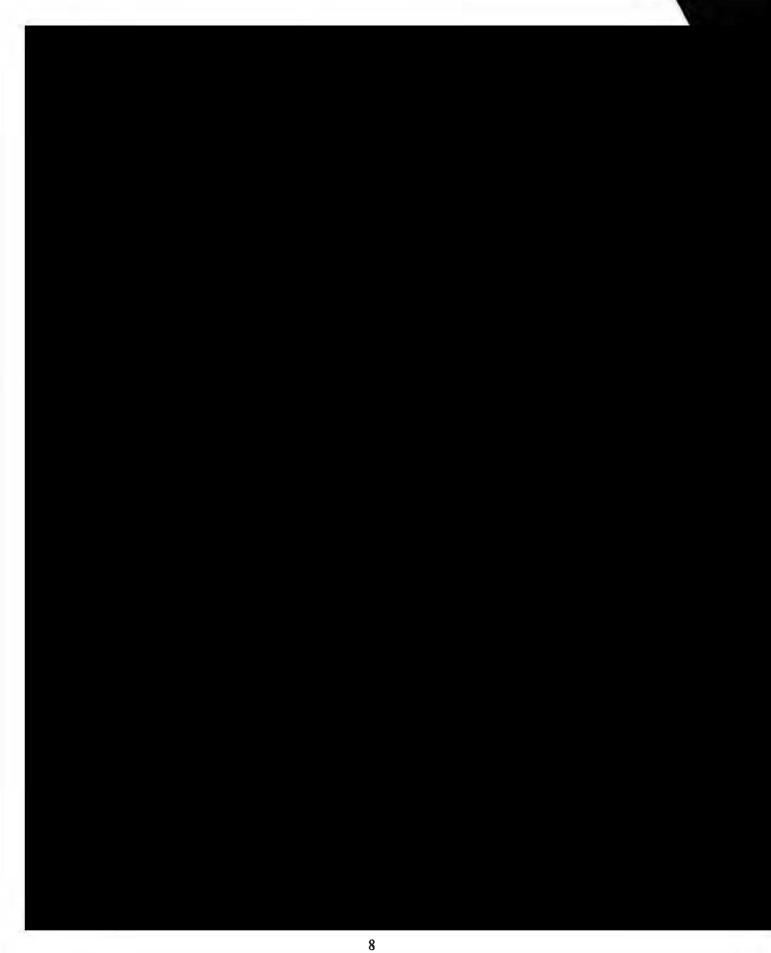




















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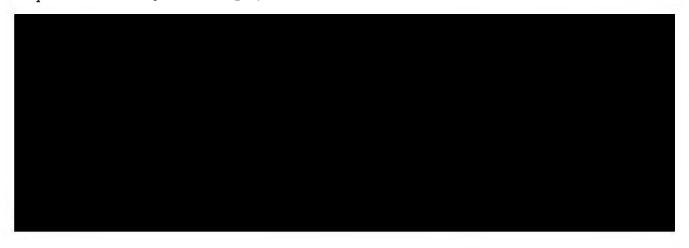
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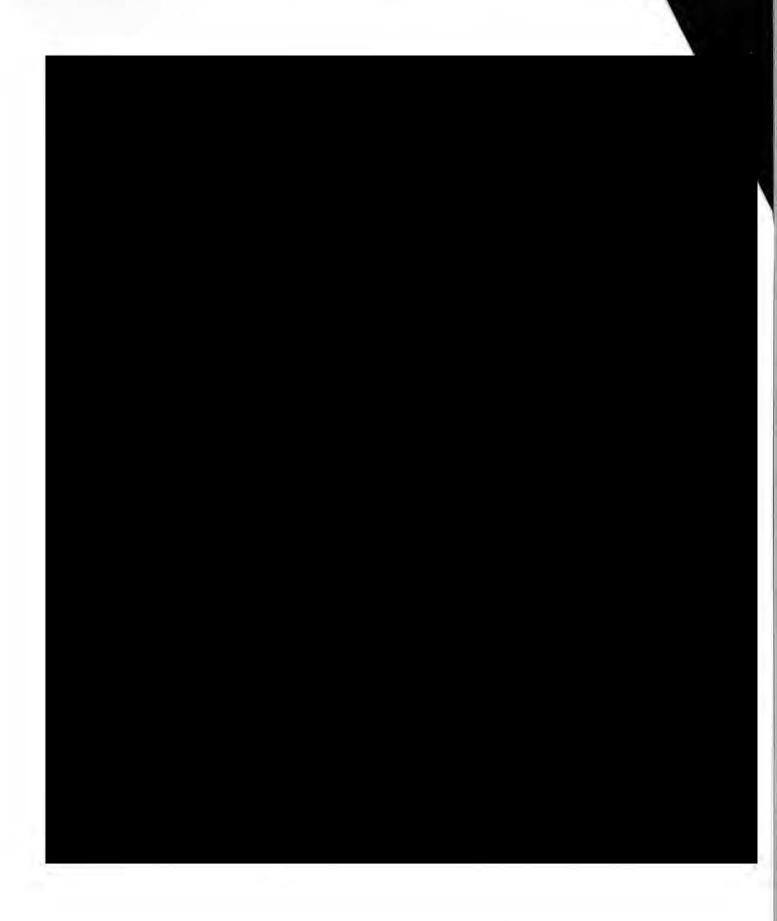
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- Before working at Nabisco, I held several roles at Brach's Candy Company, in the period from 1988 to 1992. My first title at Brach's Candy Company was Regional Sales Manager, where my responsibilities as regional sales manager included to build the sales team and increase sales in the Kansas City marketplace. I was then promoted to Director of Sales Planning where I managed the department and was responsible for developing the freight programs and promotions, communicating the priorities and programs to the sales organization, and worked closely with marketing. I was then promoted to the Director of Developing Businesses, where I was responsible for profits and losses for the food service business, the export business, and the military business.
- 62. Before Brach's Candy Company, I held the position of franchise development manager at PepsiCo from 1987 to 1988. My responsibilities for that role consisted of making sales calls on independently-owned Pepsi bottlers as well as company-owned Pepsi bottlers, with the purpose of implementing best practices and to increase sales.
- 63. Before working at PepsiCo, I held multiple sales and account management positions at Hershey Foods Company from the end of 1981 to 1987.





Executed on: October 2, 2018 Parkland, Florida

Ву:_____

Alan S. Willner